THE Hongkong Weekly Press AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLX.] HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 26TH AUGUST, 1899. [No. 9.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c. 161
Leading Articles:—
The Reduction of Cable Rates 162
Piracy and its Suppression 162
The Subsidiary Coinage Question 163
The Defence of Hongkong 163
The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Meeting 64
Financial Reform in China 165
The Differential Tax on Formosa Tea 165
The Tung Wa Hospital 165
Hongkong Legislative Council 165
Supreme Court 167
Affairs in the Philippines 168
The Chamber of Commerce and the Disturbed state of Kwangtung 169
The Subsidiary Coinage Question 171
The Formosa Tea Tax 171
Preferential Duties on Junk-borne Cargo 172
A Post Office Mistake 172
The Opium Bill 173
Reduction of Cable Rates 173
Death of Mr. Granville Sharp 173
Probates and Administratations in 1898 174
Collapse of a Building in Graham Street 174
The Un Loong Murder 174
The Disorder in Kwangtung 174
The Alleged Seizure of Sanchau by the French 174
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 174
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Limited 175
Hongkong Hotel Co., Limited 176
The Punjom Mining Co., Limited 176
Olivers Freehold Mines Limited 177
The Hongkong Rifle Association 177
Correspondence 177
Loss of the Barque *Kitty* 178
The Typhoon at Kobe 179
The Lunchow Railway 179
Haiphoong as a Manufacturing Centre 179
Plague at Newchwang 179
Great Fire at Yokohama 179
Weihaiwei 179
Hongkong and Port News 180
Commercial 181
Shipping 184

DEATHS.

At the International Hospital, Kobe, on 15th August, ESSOOFALLY A. ATTARI, aged 28 years.

GRANVILLE SHARP, of Hongkong, by telegraph from Limpsfield Chart, Surrey, England.

Suddenly, at 6 a.m. on the 22nd August, at the Government Civil Hospital, SARAH ELIZABETH TAYLOR, the wife of W. D. BRAIDWOOD, aged 31 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The German mail of the 24th July arrived per N. D. L. steamer *Preussen*, on the 22nd August (29 days); the Canadian mail of the 31st July arrived, per C. P R. steamer *Empress of India*, on the 22nd August (22 days); and the American mail of the 26th July arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *America Maru*, on the 24th August (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The alleged seizure of Sanchau by the French has been contradicted by the paper that first gave currency to the report, the *Lusitano* of Macao.

Private telegrams have been received at Shanghai, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, advising much political uneasiness in France, and cancelling orders for silk.

Plague has made its appearance at Newchwang and is causing much alarm.

Mr. F. Anderson is the new Chairman of the Shanghai Municipal Council, and Mr. E. A. Hewett Vice-Chairman.

The *American* (Manila) publishes a telegram dated Washington, 18th August, as follows:—It is reported upon semi-official authority that the Secretary of War, Elihu Root, has definitely decided to retain Major General Otis in his present position as Governor-General of the Philippine Islands.

Presuming on the leniency of General Otis, Crisanto Lichanes, who was treasurer of the Filipino Junta in Hongkong, went to Manila the other week with the object of establishing a branch of the Junta there. His purpose has, however, been frustrated, as he has been thrown into prison by General Otis, who, we understand, intends to keep him there until the end of the war.

With regard to the interruption of business in the silk trade, in consequence of the disturbances in the West River district, information has reached us from Canton that some filatures are short-handed and can only produce from 75 to 50 per cent. of silk, as the women who live at any distance are afraid to go to their work for fear of being kidnapped on the way to and from their homes.

It is rumoured at Shanghai that Kang Yi is to be appointed Viceroy of Kwangtung in succession to the present Governor-General Tan. Another rumour, which is more likely to be correct, is to the effect that Kang is coming south in his capacity of Special Commissioner to inspect the revenue service and raise the wind for the Empress Dowagar, in which he is said to have been very successful in the central provinces.

Reports of irregularities in the Colonial Secretariat at Macao having come to the knowledge of the Governor of that colony His Excellency has appointed a Commission to enquire into the truth of the same. The alleged irregularities are connected with the issue of certificates to Chinese proceeding to America. The *Echo Macaense* in commenting upon the subject considers it unfortunate for the success of the enquiry that while it was pending the Colonial Secretary, Senhor Bandeira de Lima, should have left for Portugal, as that official would have been the best qualified to assist the Commission with information as to the procedure of his department.

Lieut Sidney Rowlett Fletcher, of the 4th King's Own, died at Singapore on the 14th August. The cause of death was malarial fever, which Mr. Fletcher had contracted during a recent shooting trip to Muar, in company with the Revd. Mr. Wetherall, Garrison Chaplain. In no case, it is understood, did the party sleep out in the jungle, but it is probable that in Mr. Fletcher's case the malarial poison was absorbed during a night spent at the house of a local planter, close to which was much fresh upturned soil. In an appreciative obituary notice of the deceased officer the *Free Press* says:—All who knew the late Lieut. Fletcher, both in Hongkong and Singapore, will deeply sympathise with Colonel Rowlandson and the King's Own in this deplorable loss of a young officer so universally and deservedly liked.

Telegraphic news has been received from England of the death of Mr. Granville Sharp, a very old resident of Hongkong and a prominent member of the community, who left in the spring to escape the summer intending to return in the autumn. Mr. Sharp was in his seventy-sixth year.

On the 1st August an Edict was sent by wire to the Viceroy and Governor of Kwangtung enquiring whether a quantity of rice could be purchased in Canton and sent to Peking. The Viceroy and Governor have now replied that it would not be advisable to do so on account of the higher price of that cereal in that province. They suggested that Fls. 200,000 be appropriated in Canton and a loan of a similar amount raised to be sent to Hupeh for the purchase of 100,000 piculs of rice there to be forwarded to Peking.—*Mercury*.

Referring to the state of the import market, the Chamber of Commerce report in its last issue had the following remarks:—The market for cotton and woollen goods is steadily hardening under the stronger advices received from Manchester, where not only have prices advanced, but there is a manifest difficulty in obtaining reasonable delivery of the goods wanted. Trade in this province is suffering under the disturbed state of the country, which from sheer ill-government is in a more lawless state than it has been for many years. Piracies on the river are frequent, but the particular feature of the present state of affairs is the demanding money in the shape of blackmail from not only individuals, shops, and business concerns in the country, but such demands have even been made in the city of Canton itself. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that money which should be employed in trade is being brought in large quantities to this Colony for investment and safe-keeping, and that therefore the briskness which might be expected in our market at this time of the year is wanting, and clearances show no improvement.

Wong Chun-shien, one of the officials appointed by the Viceroy of Canton to demmit the frontier of the New Territory in conjunction with the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, is at present languishing in the gaol of the Board of Punishments at Peking, but his imprisonment has no connection, we believe, with the part he played is that matter. His appointment was that of Director-General of the lekin revenue of Kwangtung, and a charge was brought against him by Sham Chan-hun, the late Provincial Treasurer, of making heavy squeezes and allowing his underlings to prey upon the people. Wong was a great favourite of Tan, the Viceroy, who found him useful in assisting to fill the Viceregal coffers. The charge brought against Wong was consequently ignored. Some time ago, however, Wong went to Peking for audience, and upon his arrival in the capital a number of Censors brought charges against him and he is now in prison awaiting trial. Perhaps if he had been able to pay his footing a little more liberally his offences might have been condoned, but as it is things appear to be going rather hardly with him. One of his female servants named Ma Ta-ku has been arrested at Canton by order of the Puiyu Magistrate on a charge of aiding and abetting her employer to make squeezes. The Viceroy's position is affected by the scandal and reports of his supercession are in circulation.

PIRACY AND ITS SUPPRESSION.

(*Daily Press*, 19th August.)

As will be seen by the correspondence published in another column, the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce has made strong representations with reference to the widespread lawlessness and consequent insecurity for trade prevailing in Kwangtung. The Chamber supports its case by a long list of outrages of which the particulars are known, and with these particulars before them the authorities cannot but recognise that vigorous action is required to cope with the evil. There may, however, be some difference of opinion as to the character of the action to be taken. Shall Great Britain deal with the evil directly by her own officers, or confine herself to making representations to and bringing pressure to bear upon the Chinese Government? Local opinion will strongly support the Chamber in urging that if anything effective is to be done the British gunboat must show the way. There is, however, one way in which the Chinese Government might be invited to co-operate, namely, by maintaining a flotilla of suitable armed vessels commanded and officered by foreigners. After piracy on the coast had been scotched by the British it was afterwards held in check and prevented from reviving by the small fleet of Canton gunboats, which were actively employed on police duty, including revenue service. The late Captain STEWART, one of the commanders, a few years ago published his reminiscences of pirate hunting, and very good work he and his fellow commanders did. Since the Kowloon Customs were tranferred to Sir ROBERT HART's department the Customs cruisers have also rendered valuable assistance in the prevention of piracy in the waters surrounding Hongkong. In the gunboats directly under the Canton Government, however, foreign commanders have for some time been dispensed with, and the craft as now handled are of little practical utility in the suppression of disorder. The boats employed on the West River go off duty from time to time to make a little money by towing, and the officers and crews are also believed to enrich themselves by smuggling; these profitable occupations have more attractions for them than have encounters with pirates, and the latter are therefore for the most part left alone, with the connivance of officials who are not above compounding with the lawbreakers to their own advantage. It might be difficult to prove all this in detail, but the broad fact remains that the Canton authorities, whether from corruption or sheer incompetence, absolutely fail to maintain order on the waterways and matters have now reached such a pass that action on the part of the British Government is urgently called for. The first step should be to place suitable light draft British gunboats on the service, but as the duty of maintaining order properly belongs to the Chinese Government and the assistance of Her Majesty's vessels can only be regarded as temporary, the next step should be to compel the Chinese Government to provide a properly equipped fleet of her own and to place it under the administrative and executive control of foreign officers to be engaged by China for that purpose. What the old Canton flotilla did for the suppression and prevention of piracy on the coasts the proposed new river flotilla would no doubt be able to accomplish on the inland waterways.

MR. DREW in the Canton Customs report for last year devotes some remarks to this question of piracy. "I think it probable," he says, "that the advent of the steam-"launch has concentrated the operations of "the pirates, whereas before these opera-"tions were far more scattered and each "one was on a smaller scale. A large "haul can now be made by seizing a big and "crowded passenger boat towed by a launch "on a route where much money is conveyed "to and fro; and the towing launch, which "is an easy capture, affords the outlaws a "swift and sure means of escape with im-"mense plunder. Beside, the regularity of "speed in the case of a steamer-towed boat "is almost as sure as that of a scheduled "railway train; so that a band of pirates "can arrange beforehand with certainty just "when and at what spot to concentrate upon "their prey to most advantage. These fa-"vourable conditions did not prevail to the "same extent when passengers travelled in "smaller numbers and smaller boats, and "when the want of steam made the voyages "of uncertain speed and duration from the "influence of tide and of varying and un-"certain winds, and escape was less sure." This may be so, but the concentration of the operations of the pirates ought to render it all the more easy to get at and effectively deal with them. Certainly it makes the matter more conspicuous, and Mr. DREW says the evil has become so grave that it can be lightly treated no longer. The Viceroy, he continues, "has "lately organised a special system of pre-"vention of piracy, based on a detail of "seven launches to definite sections on the "main water routes and supplemented by "guard-boats, all under the control of one "man. The provincial authorities have be-"come apprehensive that if they do not act, "others who are not entitled to do so are "likely to interfere to stop the evil. But "it ought to be admitted that the evil is a "most difficult one to cope with, and that "a much more vigorous Government than "the Chinese would be put to an extreme "test of its resources in the effort to put a "stop to it." We must confess our inability to endorse the last sentence. Other Powers dealing with people as prone to lawlessness as the Chinese manage to maintain order on their waterways, and we entertain no doubt whatever that British or other European officers would, if given a small but efficient flotilla, adequately police the waters of the Canton delta.

THE REDUCTION OF CABLE RATES.

(*Daily Press*, 22nd August.)

The Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce at its last monthly meeting passed a series of resolutions on the subject of cable rates, to the effect that the present rate of 4s. per word is excessive and admits of substantial reduction, that a reduction of the tariff would be followed by an increase in the traffic, that a Government guarantee might be given if there is any hesitation on this point, that the principle of cheap telegrams should follow the concession of a penny post, as it is certain to prove a powerful factor in promoting trade with the mother country, and that, so soon as the time seems ripe, an all British line should be constructed between the United Kingdom and its great colonies and dependencies either by laying a cable the whole distance touching only at British ports or by completion of the existing land lines. At the half-yearly meeting of the Eastern Telegraph Co., Limited, held on 20th July, the Chairman, the Marquis of TWEEDDALE, made some remarks which have a direct bearing on the above resolutions, the burden of his speech being a defence of the Cable Companies and their charges. Before proceeding to discuss those remarks an acknowledgment may readily be made of the immense services the Eastern Telegraph Co. and its off shoot the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Co. have rendered to commerce and to British Imperial interests. A great system has been built up by private enterprise, and according to the Marquis of TWEEDDALE the average dividend on the elder Company's ordinary capital during the twenty-seven years of its existence has been exactly six per cent., and only for the last two years has it been seven per cent. That is certainly not an extravagant return, judged by comparison with the returns made by many of our local joint-stock concerns. While cheerfully acknowledging the past services of the Cable Companies, however, it must be admitted that at the present time the interests of the Empire require cheaper rates for commercial reasons and an all British cable connecting with Australia for political reasons. As the *Times* remarks in an article on the Eastern Telegraph Company's meeting, the more Lord TWEEDDALE proves that the company cannot or ought not to reduce its charges the more he establishes the case for setting up some alternative agency less hampered by these crushing disabilities.

There is one passage in Lord TWEEDDALE's speech which will cause surprise to residents in the Far East who have followed the history of the telegraphic charges question. He said:—"They had been "reproached with the great inequalities of "tariffs. How were their tariffs fixed, "Why did these inequalities exist? The "answer was simple. It was because the "telegraph tariffs to Egypt, India, and the "Far East were practically controlled by "the European Governments through whose "lines Sir HENNIKER HEATON suggested "that competition should come. The rate "to India was controlled by the tariffs of "Germany, Russia, and Turkey; to China "and Japan by Russia and China; to "Egypt by Turkey. If any reduction was "to be made in the present tariffs it was "not the consent of the Cable Companies "that was in the first instance required, but "of the Governments mentioned." We do not know so much about the European Governments mentioned, but the question at once suggests itself, who was it that induced the Chinese Government to enter into the agreement to keep up rates? Why, the Cable Companies themselves. For those Companies now to turn round and say they cannot reduce rates on account of the obstruction of the Chinese Government cannot be characterised as anything less than disingenuous. And it is impossible to avoid a suspicion that other Governments, like the Chinese Government, may have been influenced by the Cable Companies to keep up rates instead of being persuaded to lower them.

In connection with the influence of Foreign Governments there is another point in Lord TWEEDDALE's speech that we should like to have some further explanation upon. He tells us in one part of his speech that the greatest obstacle to a reduction of the present tariffs is the necessity for obtaining the consent of those Governments through the medium of whose lines Sir HENNIKER HEATON proposes to reduce the Australian tariff to 1s. per word, and in another part, referring to the demand for an all-British cable, he says:—"As a matter of fact, the "Eastern Company had cables from Great "Britain to Gibraltar, Gibraltar to Malta, "Malta to Egypt, and Egypt to Aden and "Bombay, the whole of which landing points

"were either British territory or were "under the control of the British Govern-"ment. . . . Originally the policy of "the Companies was on broad international "lines, but during the past few years this "policy had been somewhat modified to "meet the demand for special cables for "British traffic; and recently they had laid "down new cables from England to Al-"exandria, touching only at Gibraltar and "Malta, at a cost of £442,000, in order that "no British traffic should transit foreign "territory, leaving their cables from Mar-"seilles to carry the French and other "foreign traffic." From a political point of view this is highly satisfactory, as it gives through communication with India and the Far East by British lines touching only on British territory. But having these special cables for British traffic, and being thus in an independent position, how can the Companies claim that they are prevented from lowering their rates by Foreign Governments? There is the International Telegraph Convention, it is true, but if the Cable Companies were willing to accept lower rates the other signatories to the Convention would not be likely to raise any objection. Moreover, the Convention is subject to periodical revision.

THE SUBSIDIARY COINAGE QUESTION.

(*Daily Press*, 21st August.)

The report of the committee appointed by H.E. the Governor to enquire into the subsidiary coinage question possesses the qualities of brevity and terseness, but it is not altogether a satisfying document. The Committee have passed resolutions to the effect that an ample supply of Hongkong subsidiary coin should be always kept in the colony, and that in view of the fact that Hongkong subsidiary coin is the only legal tender restriction or prohibition of the import of subsidiary coin from the Canton mint is unnecessary and, in the Committee's opinion, impracticable. This report is signed by the Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Sir THOMAS JACKSON, Mr. J. THURBURN, and Mr. R. M. GRAY. The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, also a member of the Committee, does not sign the report, but minutes "I agree to the resolutions, "but think we should go further." The hon. gentleman gives no indication of the direction which he thinks the reporting should go further, and seeing that on both the points touched upon the resolutions go to the extreme it is to be presumed that what he means is that something in the way of historical summary and a detailed statement of the present position, in short, the reasons on which the resolutions are based, should have been given. This would have been interesting and probably also useful, and it is to be regretted, we think, that the Committee has not supplied it. As to the bare resolutions, however, they go as far as they can. In the first it is recommended that an ample supply of Hongkong subsidiary coin be always kept in the colony. That recommendation will be endorsed by everyone in the colony, and presumably the home authorities must also by this time have become convinced of its wisdom, though some years ago they were filled with alarming forebodings of future financial disaster to be brought about by the subsidiary coins which have passed into circulation in China being thrown back on the colony and falling to a discount. To persons with local knowledge this seems pure nonsense, but it was the view held and solemnly enunciated some years ago by the Treasury officials at home, and it was in accordance with that view that the colony was kept bare of the necessary small change.

The question of more immediate importance with which the Committee had to deal was that relating to the Chinese small coins with which the colony is now flooded. A very general desire has been expressed that the circulation of these coins should in some way be prevented and their place be filled by the colony's own subsidiary coinage. This desire, however, does not seem to be sufficiently strong to induce people to go to the trouble of obtaining Hongkong coins when small change is required. This little question of trouble in fact to a great extent explains the secret of the preference Chinese coins enjoy. If anyone wants ten dollars' worth of small change he can give a ten dollar note to his shroff or boy and in a quarter-of-an-hour his requirements will be filled; but in Chinese coins. If on the other hand Hongkong coins are wanted a long process of red tape has to be gone through. In the first place a written application has to be sent to the Treasury, upon which an order upon the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is given, and when the messenger is sent to the Bank the procedure there appears to be such as to detain him for a considerable period. What wonder, under the circumstances, that Chinese coins are preferred? They readily pass current at their face value except at the Government Offices and one or two large establishments where ten and twenty-cent transactions are not very frequent anyhow, and if by chance a small cash payment has to be made to them a dollar can be tendered and the change taken in small coins, the receipt of which is usually considered a convenience.

It is said that the circulation of the Chinese coins involves shopkeepers and others who receive large quantities of them in a substantial loss, and it may be so; but in that case it is singular the chair coolies accept them so readily; they are entitled to legal coin, and it is certain that they would not accept any other unless they knew they could get the same value for it, and it is equally certain that the shopkeeper would not give as much for a Chinese ten cent piece as for a Hongkong coin if he could not in his turn pay away the former on the same terms as the latter. This was exemplified some years ago when the market was flooded with Japanese coins; these, not being legal tender, fell to a discount and the chair and riksha coolies thereupon refused to have anything to do with them and insisted, according to their right, on being paid in Hongkong coins. The result was that the Japanese coins were very soon withdrawn and they are now seldom met with. How is it, then, that the Chinese coins are maintained at par? We think some explanation on these points might reasonably have been expected from the Committee in their report. Since the Committee has failed to give it perhaps the Government might with advantage call upon the Colonial Treasurer to make a departmental report on the subject. This might be brought about by Mr. WHITEHEAD asking a series of questions in the Legislative Council. From the published correspondence it will be seen that the hon. gentleman asked Mr. THOMSON for some information while the enquiry was in progress, that the application was passed on to the Government, and that the information had not been supplied up to the date to which the correspondence extends. The subject is of sufficient importance to warrant a full statement of the position.

The Committee say that the restriction or prohibition of the import of subsidiary coin from the Canton mint is in their opinion impracticable. That, surely, is a mistaken opinion. If the tendering or possession of Canton coins were made a penal offence they would very soon disappear from circulation. Some similar action, if we are not mistaken, has been taken in the Straits Settlements with respect to the copper currency. The question is whether the alleged evil is sufficiently serious to call for such a drastic remedy. If prohibition were decided on and enforced by making possession of the coin a punishable offence it would not be necessary to fine or imprison the whole community: one or two examples would suffice. But when the prohibition had been made effective and the Chinese coins had disappeared the colony might possibly find that their loss had simply involved the public in a perpetual inconvenience. We agree with Mr. WHITEHEAD that the report might with advantage have gone further and shed some light upon a vexed and intricate question. The whole matter seems to resolve itself into this: the public requires a certain amount of small change and it goes to the market in which it can obtain it on the best terms. If it were made worth the money changer's while to keep Hongkong coins in stock he would readily do so, but he is allowed no profit on those coins, while on the Canton coins he makes an appreciable percentage.

THE DEFENCE OF HONGKONG.

(*Daily Press*, 25th August.)

It is refreshing in days when so many misstatements are made in the public Press in the United Kingdom and elsewhere on matters affecting the Far East, to find so sound and sensible an appreciation of the position of Great Britain in the Far East as that enunciated by Mr. ARTHUR KRAUSSE in a recent article published in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. This article deals more especially with Hongkong as being the most important outpost of British influence, a fact the British public have not yet generally come to recognise. A few more such articles as that of Mr. KRAUSSE, accompanied by illustrations, may perhaps serve to convince British readers of what paramount importance to the maintenance of British prestige and the preservation of British trade is the retention of this great coign of vantage in these Eastern seas, and also to bring home to them the vital necessity that exists for placing it in a position to defy attack and dominate, if need be, the provinces of Southern China. Mr. KRAUSSE, though in error in some particulars—for we cannot agree with him that the Chinese could at anyt ime have retaken Hongkong—has on the whole a good grasp of the situation. He says:—"For fifty-seven "years we held the island by the grace of "the Chinese, who at any time could have "destroyed the city of Victoria from the "heights of Kowloon; and now that we "have acquired a portion of the Peninsula "which might threaten the British Colony "we have neglected the most obvious safe-"guards necessary to our well-being. Thus, "while the island of Hongkong is British "territory pure and simple, the Kowloon "Peninsula is held under a lease." Mr. KRAUSSE appears to be unaware of the fact that that portion of the territory known generally as the Kowloon Peninsula was ceded to us in perpetuity by the Peking Convention of 1860 but as that is a very small error it does not affect the argument. The whole of the newly acquired territory, inland from

all, is leased for a term of ninety-nine years only. Referring to the boundary, Mr. KRAUSSE continues :—"The boundary "adopted under the recent Convention for "the extension of that lease is delimitated "by an arbitrary line incapable of defence "and open to the aggression of the turbulent people forming the population of that "portion of Kwangtung. And while the "natural defences of the sphere of influence "thus created are insufficient, no steps have "been taken either to strengthen the "garrison of Hongkong itself or to increase "the means available for coping with any "trouble which might arise." Further on Mr. KRAUSSE considers the question of the garrison of this Colony, which he sets down at three thousand men of all arms including Volunteers. This estimate is probably very close to the mark, for though the Estimates for 1898-9 put the total strength of the Garrison at 3,428, exclusive of the Volunteers, the third company of Royal Artillery so long promised has not yet arrived and the different regiments and corps are seldom up to strength. As Mr. KRAUSSE remarks, the garrison is not too much to "hold the island in case of "emergency and is totally inadequate to "allow for the sending of bodies of "men to protect the outlying portions of "the mainland. It may indeed be said that "the islandis so feebly garrisoned as to "invite attack, and the defences of Kowloon "are utterly inadequate to the importance of the place." He then goes on to show how eradily a force could be landed here on the southern shores of the island, which are still innocent of any fortifications, and how hostile ships could lie six miles off from shore and dropshells into Victoria or the docks a Kowloon.

Unfortunately this is all true and has been patent to the War Office for years, but nothing is done because funds are short and troops are scarce. So far from adding to the Garrison the latest announcement in Parliament on the subject was to the effect that it was proposed to transfer two or three companies of infantry from the solitary British Regiment of the line quartered here to Weihaiwei and replace them by a similar number of companies of Chinese coolies now being slowly licked into shape by Major BOWEN. We do not want any more Chinese coolies here; we already have a corps of Submarine Miners, who should by good rights be transferred to Singapore and their place filled by a Malay Corps from that place. Chinese troops cannot be depended upon to oppose to Chinese, and they are most undesirable from many points of view. It has been stated that Chinese from the North would be true to their salt if employed in the South and *vice versa*, and this may be true to a certain extent, but only to an extent. They could not be wholly relied upon, and the experiment of training Chinese as soldiers is not one that should be encouraged. If there are different clans, races, and dialects, the Chinese of all provinces have at least a common written language, and a common reverence for the Chinese classics; they have too, customs and habits and modes of thought common to all, and, above everything, a common bond of sympathy in their antipathy to people of Western origin. The British War Office are making an experiment at Weihaiwei, and we trust it may be confined to that port. It may possibly answer there, if there is no need for the services of the "Chinese Regiment" in the field; but we should be very sorry to find it extended, and have no wish to see a portion of the battalion transferred to this Colony. It would be better to rely on the present small garrison than to increase the number and at the same time subtract from it a portion of its most efficient branch.

Mr. KRAUSSE is right in his main contentions. The boundary first chosen is undoubtedly an unsatisfactory and impracticable one, and should be revised. Seeing that the British troops are still encamped close to the frontier and the future of Shamchun has not, apparently, yet been decided, there is ground for hope that the first line selected will not be adhered to altogether. It is almost too much to hope, however, that Lord SALISBURY's Government will insist upon a really suitable and satisfactory frontier in part reparation for the obstructions and hostility to the British occupation of the New Territory. Yet this would be a very light punishment for the breach of good faith of which the Viceroy of the Two Kwang has been guilty. The frontier should fall back to its natural barriers, and the whole of the Sunon District be ceded to Great Britain. The term for which the lease was given by the convention, viz., ninety-nine years, should be changed for cession in perpetuity, which would be more beneficial to both the Government and the Chinese population. A permanent military post or camp should be maintained close to the frontier, and two or three small posts establised in the Kowloon Territory and manned with Indian troops. Regular steamer service should be maintained with the Mirs Bay and Deep Bay districts and with Lantao and Cheungchow. The garrison of the Colony should be immediately raised to six thousand men of all arms by the addition of one British and two Indian regiments and another battery of artillery. If there is any difficulty in obtaining Indian troops, recourse should be had to the West Indies and two new regiments raised there for service in the East. The Police Force should at the same time be thoroughly and efficiently reorganised, so that it might, in case of emergency, be called upon to assist the Garrison, the European contingent being doubled and the mass of the lukongs replaced by Indians or others of British origin. An old ironclad of the *Ajax* or similar type, to act as guard ship, should be stationed here and the flotilla of torpedo boats should be largely increased. Lastly, the southern side of the island should be defended by batteries at certain salient points, and the approaches to Mirs Bay and Castle Peak Bay secured as far as possible consistent with a moderate outlay. Hongkong would then, if not rendered invulnerable, be at least in some sort of a position to repel attack and to gradually develop into what it ought to become—a first class fortification, arsenal, and military centre, from which the British power could look forth complacently upon foreign schemes or native squabbles, at all times in readiness to take any necessary measures to protect British interests wherever and whenever menaced in China.

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK MEETING.

(*Daily Press*, 21st August.)

The shareholders of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank again had a pleasant gathering on Saturday morning on the occasion of the half-yearly meeting. The Chairman's references to the strong position of the Bank were received with applause and the allusion to the honour recently conferred upon Sir THOMAS JACKSON, to whom the institution is chiefly indebted for having brought it to that position, afforded special gratification. A Bank, as Mr. GRAY said, wants three things, namely, good character, good management; and solid resources of its own. All of these the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank possesses, and with the prudent policy of building up the reserve and keeping £1,000,000 of it in sterling, the shareholders may look forward to the future with confidence. It is true Mr. GRAY sounded a warning note as to future earnings, and the warning may not have been uncalled for, for in view of the magnificent profits of the last few years some shareholders might be inclined to form altogether unreasonable expectations as to their continuance. Mr. GRAY accordingly thought it right to point out that as far as the directors can see it will be an impossibility to continue the profits upon the same scale in the future. "Ordinary exchange bank-"ing with finely cut margins," he said, "can only yield moderate profits. We "can congratulate ourselves that while the "opportunity for making extraordinary "profits lasted we took full advantage of "it and placed the Bank in a position "of immense strength and security." While taking due note of Mr GRAY's warning it may also be permissible to suggest that with the opening up of China the Bank's business will probably not be confined to exchange with finely cut margins, but that there will be many opportunities in the future of putting through large financial transactions and making good profits thereon.

The China question, Mr. GRAY said, still keeps prominently before the world, and is likely to do so for years. "The great trading "nations," he continued, "want a prosper-"ous China and equality of opportunity in "commerce. I sincerely hope that such may "turn out to be the end of all the rivalries "of recent years." That hope, we think, is likely to be realised, of even if the policy of spheres of influence prevails the Powers creating spheres will only be allowed to do so on condition of according commercial equality to all nationalities. But a material element in contributing to the prosperity of China would be a sound currency, and on this point Mr. GRAY's remarks are calculated to cause some disappointment, not only because they do not express any anticipation of an early reform or any intention on the part of the Bank to press such reform forward, but also because they evince what appears to be an incomplete appreciation of the facts of the case. Speaking of India Mr. GRAY says:—"Whatever the policy of the Go-"vernment of India may be with regard to "currency, the people of India will con-"tinue to use silver, it is their money, and "commodities will be measured in it for many "a day to come." Now commodities have already ceased to be measured in silver in India. That, we think, is a simple fact that admits of no dispute. Commodities are measured in rupees, and rupees represent, not the given amount of silver they contain, which is worth less than a shilling but the fifteenth part of a pound sterling, or one shilling and fourpence. Commodities therefore are in effect measured in gold. So in China, when the conversion takes place commodities will continue to be measured in taels or dollars, but the tael or dollar will no longer represent only the value of the silver it contains, but a certain part of a pound sterling. And the sooner the conversion comes the better will it be for China both politically and commercially and for the foreign merchants engaged in trade with that country. It is true, as Mr. GRAY says, that for some time past the China exchange has been almost as steady as that of India, but in the nature of things that cannot continue. The price of silver may rise, or it may fall, but there are certain to

be fluctuations in the future, as there have been in the past, and a rise is in the long run as prejudicial to trade as a fall. What trade requires is stability of exchange, and, bimetallism being now unfortunately out of court, it is only by the adoption of the gold standard that permanent stability can be obtained.

FINANCIAL REFORM IN CHINA.

(*Daily Press*, 23rd August.)

The Chinese Government, or the collection of Boards that pass for such at Peking, are in a fresh difficulty. The funds relied upon for the purpose of greasing the wheels of the State coach and to permit of the cumbrous machine turning its creaking course, do not roll in, the receipts, from various alleged causes, having proved lamentably insufficient for the purpose. The Empress Dowager has therefore been obliged to reconsider her position. Her Majesty finds, as a consequence, that the reforms she strenuously condemned when mooted by the Emperor KWANG SU and his advisers, were not all so unnecessary and foolish as she in her mature experience had imagined. She begins to see, for instance, that the system of collection in the provinces must be very faulty inasmuch as it frequently leaves nothing for transmission to the Imperial Treasury. The general corruption prevailing has been the means of opening the eyes of the Empress and she is at length compelled to sanction measures of reform which she was prepared to denounce as utopian and dangerous when advocated by the Emperor. The astute Empress Dowager has not hesitated long as to the policy to be adopted. She has seen that the officials in the provinces were all fighting for their own hand, that the replenishment of the Imperial Treasury had no interest for them, and that the corruption on which the Emperor had such strong opinions was a real and potent factor in the administration of the Empire. Hence the acceptance of measures odious to her party, and hence also the mission of His Excellency KANG YI to Kiangnan and Chekiang to ascertain what amount of surplus taxation could, in those populous and prosperous provinces, be spared for the benefit of Peking to help make good the large deficit in the revenue there. That deficit is set down at twenty million taels, and KANG YI has gone on a mission to endeavour to augment the provincial contributions from eighty to one hundred million taels. It is stated that the Imperial Commissioner will take back with him to the capital from Kiangnan some two million taels, which will no doubt be a welcome contribution to the depleted Treasury, and he expects to extract a similar sum from Chekiang; he will also return with some more difinite information in regard to the provincial revenues. No doubt the facts he has collected will be of great value to the Central Government, and they are likely to lead to an attempt at the further centralisation of administrative authority at Peking. Efforts will doubtless be made to control from the capital the Telegraphs, Railways, and steam communications, to limit the political power of the Viceroys, and possibly—though this is more doubtful—to amalgamate the Native with the Foreign Customs Collectorate. An attempt is at the same time to be made to increase and centralise the army, and the proposal is to raise one in the central provinces, to be called the Nanyang Army, to consist of 100,000 men; 20,000 to be quartered at Woosung; a similar number at Fushan (near Chinkiang), at Kinngyin, at Chinkiang, and twenty thousand between Huaian and Tsingkiang-pu. The great question with the Empress Dowager for the moment is that of finance. A deficit stares her in the face, and to remedy this Her Majesty is prepared to promise all kinds of reforms, more especially those which seem most likely to yield a good financial return. The old Lady is evidtlyen intensely practical, and is prepared to throw sentiment and long cherished opinions to the winds if by so doing she can consolidate her authority. Curiously enough Her Majesty, in her new born zeal for reform, never refers to the EMPEROR, who was the first among Manchu Princes to recognise and admit its necessity. To be consistent she should restore KWANG SU to power again and lend her support to the schemes of reform he laboured to set on foot in his most difficult Empire. Meantime KANG YI has been stopped at Shanghai on his way back to Peking and it is reported that his mission is to be extended to the Southern provinces.

THE DIFFERENTIAL TAX ON FORMOSA TEA.

(*Daily Press*, 22nd August.)

The action of the Japanese Government in imposing a discriminating duty on Formosa teas of yen 1.60 per picul if shipped direct to foreign countries whilst allowing the leaf to be shipped from Formosa to Japan free and thence exported abroad free of duty, is in direct conflict with the spirit of the treaty between Great Britain and Japan, if not the actual letter, and we should think it will only be necessary to draw official attention to the subject in order to have the grievance removed. Representations have been addressed to Sir E. SATOW, H.B.M. Minister to Japan, by the Amoy and Hongkong Chambers of Commerce, and we look for an early intimation that the objectionable duty has been abolished. The treaty provides for reciprocal freedom of commerce and navigation and that "the same export "duties shall be paid and the same bounties "and drawbacks allowed in the dominions "and possessions of either of the high "contracting parties on the exportation of "any article which is or may be legally "exported therefrom, whether such export-"ation shall take place in Japanese or in "British vessels, and whatever be the place "of destination, whether a port of either of "the high contracting parties or of any "third Power." Now the object of the new duty is to compel Formosa teas to be shipped via Japan instead of via Amoy, which has hitherto been the port of transhipment for the Formosa tea trade; and the compulsory shipment of Formosa teas via Japan for Europe or the Atlantic ports of the United States would involve additional freight charges and to some extent divert the trade from the merchants and ships at present interested therein. If the Japanese Government should take refuge in the quibble that the new conditions are not discriminatory because they apply equally to Japanese and to Foreign ships and subjects it would be a serious blow to the belief at present entertained that Japan intends honestly and loyally to fulfil her treaty engagements in spirit as well as in letter.

We regret to learn that Mr. A. M. Marshall, the P. & O. acting agent at Singapore, is suffering from a severe attack of fever, and a trip to Japan not having enabled him to throw it off he has now been ordered home on sick leave. Mr. H. I. Chope, of the Hongkong office, left on Saturday by the *Parramatta* for Singapore to relieve Mr. Marshall.

THE TUNG WA HOSPITAL.

(*Daily Press*, 22nd August.)

The appeal which Mr. HO TUNG has published on behalf of the Tung Wa Hospital extension scheme merits a liberal response on the part of the public. Within the last few years a great improvement has been effected in the Tung Wa Hospital, and patients who so desire can now obtain in that institution the benefits of Western medical science, while all alike, whether they elect to be treated by Native or Western methods, enjoy the benefits of improved sanitation and proper hospital arrangements. It is now proposed to erect a new building as an extension, in which a special ward is to be set apart for midwifery, which, as Mr. HO TUNG says, "is urgently needed, "considering the high mortality amongst "infants and mothers." The amount of preventible suffering and the high mortality that exist in connection with childbirth amongst the Chinese are enormous, and any movement calculated to ameliorate the distressing state of affairs that at present exists cannot fail to appeal to the humane instincts of all who can be induced to give a thought to the subject. We take it for granted that in the proposed obstetric ward of the Tung Wa all the patients without exception will have the benefit of scientific attention, for if native methods were to prevail it would naturally make a material difference in the light in which the foreign community would view the undertaking.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.).

His EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Commanding the Troops).

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART C.M.G., (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police.)

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer.)

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works.)

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils.)

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Subsidiary Coinage Committee, the Superior and Subordinate Courts Returns for 1898, and despatches and other papers relating to the extension of the Colony of Hongkong. He also submitted financial minute No. 2 and proposed that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of his intention to ask the following questions at the next meeting of the Council:—

Has the attention of the Honourable the Colonial Secretary been directed to a leading Article in the *China Mail* of Wednesday, August 9th, and will the Honourable Member inform the Council:—

(1.)—Is it the intention of the Government to appoint a Commission to enquire into and report on the alleged land jobbery in the Colony's recently acquired territory, referred to in the said article and widely and publicly spoken about?

(2.)—Was the late Tung Cheong [illegible] by the Government on or about the 17th April last with certain Government Proclamations to

be conveyed into the New Territory to be posted and placarded in the various villages and towns herein?

(3.)—If so, under whose direction did the deceased undertake the mission without an armed escort at a time when the fact was notorious in the Colony that the people in the New Territory were unsettled, disturbed and in a riotous and rebellious condition?

(4.)—Is it true that on the said mission at or near the village of Un Loong on 17th or 18th April last the said Tung Chong was foully and brutally murdered?

5.—What remuneration, if any, has been paid to the deceased's family?

6.—Will the Government lay upon the table a copy in English of the Proclamation issued by the Canton and the Colonial Governments previous to the 17th April last and posted and placarded in the villages and towns throughout the New Territory informing the people and the inhabitants as to the effect the change of Government would have on their lives, liberties and possessions and state the dates when such proclamations if any were posted and placarded?

7.—What satisfaction, if any, has been obtained from the Chinese Government for the assault by the Chinese on the Honourable the Captain Superintendent of Police before our New Territory was taken over, and in respect of the resistance by thousands of armed Chinese to the British entering into possession of the area leased by the Imperial Chinese Government to Great Britain per the Convention of June, 1898, the quelling of which resistance resulted in considerable and lamentable loss of life and which forced upon the Colony substantial amount of extra and avoidable expenditure?

Has the attention of the Honourable the Director of Public Works been directed to the *China Mail*'s leading articles of 15th and 23rd August alleging the existence of jerry buildings in Hongkong; will the Honourable Member inform the Council whether the said allegation are well founded; and if so, will he state what powers his Department possesses to to prevent the erection of such buildings, what action has been taken by his Department in the matter, and if his powers are insufficient is he taking any steps to get increased powers?

His Excellency the Governor—remarked with regard to question three:—That cannot be put as a question. It is a matter of opinion.

ANSWERS TO QUESTION.

Hon T. H. Whitehead asked the following questions:—

1.—New Public Works—Will the Colonial Secretary inform the Council whether the Government has sanctioned the Director of Public Works withholding from the consideration of the Public Works Committee, plans, estimates, specifications, estimate of cost, and full information regarding proposed new Public Works, and, if so, what are the reasons for departing from the course in connection therewith and which has been customary hitherto for years past?

2.—"Beaconsfield," Repairs and Alterations.—Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary inform the Council why the proposal to expend a substantial amount of Public money on repairs and alterations to "Beaconsfield" was not submitted to the Public Works Committee for their consideration and report to the Council as has hitherto been customary?

3.—"Beaconsfield" Expenditure.—Will the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer inform the Council—(1) under what authority was the sum of $19,076.70 expended in alterations and repairs to "Beaconsfield," and cost of the litigation in connection therewith disbursed; (2) on what date was the said money paid; and (3) why has no financial minute been submitted to the Council or the Finance Committee in respect thereof?

4.—Public Works Committee.—Will the Honourable the Director of Public Works inform the Council why plans, drawings, specifications, estimate of cost and full information in re the new Public Works undertaken since about the middle of last year have not been submitted to the Public Works Committee for consideration and report to the Council as has hitherto been customary hitherto for years past?

5.—Special Commissioner's report on New Territory.—With reference to the Special Commission's report dated 8th October, 1898, on the Extension of the Colony, will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary inform the Council whether, exclusive of servants, any other gentlemen or persons, Foreign or Chinese, other than those mentioned in para. 3 of the said report, accompanied him on his visiting any of the villages and towns in the New Territory; if so, what were their names, what was the necessity for their presence, and why and for what purpose were they permitted to accompany the Commission?

6.—Kowloon Fire Precautions.—Will the Honourable the Colonial Secretary inform the Council whether, in view of the increasing number of houses on the Kowloon Peninsula, the Government has considered and deemed it expedient to make requisite provision in respect of a branch of the Fire Brigade there whereby it will be possible to attempt to cope with any fires which may hereafter take place?

The Colonial Secretary—Sir, the answer to the first question of the hon. member is no. The answer to the second question is, because the expenditure was not contempleted.

The Colonial Treasurer—The answer to the third question is (1)—On the authority of His Excellency the Governor. (2) 3rd May last. (3) I do not know.

The Director of Public Works.—The answer to the fourth question is, No new public works have been undertaken since the middle of last year which have not been submitted to, considered, and approved by the Committee of the whole Legislative Council, except a few works in the New Territory which being of urgency were undertaken without the usual formalities being gone through.

The Colonial Secretary—Sir, the answer to the fifth question is, Yes; Commander de Horsey, some of the other officers of Her Majesty's ship *Plover*, and Mr. Li Pak, for purposes of curiosity it is presumed, accompanied the Commission on one or two of its visits to villages in the new territory. Mr. Ng Sui Shang accompanied the Commission throughout the tour of inspection, arranging for transport, guides, etc., and his services proved of great assistance.

His Excellency the Governor—With reference to question No. 4, I may say to the honourable member that until I saw his question I did not know of the existence of the Public Works Committee, and the committee was named on a day when I was absent, and at the next meeting I probably had not paid sufficient attention to the reading of the minutes.

The Colonial Secretary—The answer to the sixth question is, the matter is at present under the consideration of the Government.

PROPOSED WORKS.

The Director of Public Works—With your Excellency's premission I beg to move that the following proposed works be referred to the Public Works Committee of this Council for consideration and report—(1) Police Station at Kennedytown. (2) Chair shelter at Peak Tram Station. (3) High West road. (4) Waterworks extension, Hongkong. (5) The erection of a refuse distructor at Kennedytown. (6) Electric lighting at Government House. (7) Minor roads in the new territory. (8) Preparing the site for the Governor's Peak Residence. (9) Kowloon water supply. (10) Pokfulam conduit road.

The Colonial Secretary seconded and the motion was carried.

THE LIQUOR LICENSES ORDINANCE.

On the motion of the Acting Attorney-General, seconded by the Colonial Secretary, the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licenses Ordinance, 1898, was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

FURNITURE FOR "THE CLIFF."

The Chairman—The first minute I have to bring before the Council is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of $1,500 to meet the expenses of furniture, &c., at "The Cliff."

The vote was agreed to.

EXPENDITURE IN THE NEW TERRITORY, ON BEACONSFIELD, ETC.

The Chairman—The next vote is one in which the Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of $170,000 in aid of the following votes:—New Territory, $100,000; Plague 20,000; Miscellaneous Services (Other), $40,000; Printing, $10,000; Total, $170,000.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead—Before you proceed with this vote I should like to know how much of this $100,000, has already been expended?

The Chairman—About $60,000. It is proposed of course later on to lay full details on the table, and estimates of future expenditure to be incurred this year will also be given. Up to the 31st July about $60,000 of the amount had been expended.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead—Can you tell us how much has been spent on the new road?

The Chairman—I do not think I have got the figures by me, but all the information can be laid on the Council table before the vote comes before the full Council if honourable members desire it.

The Hon. C. P. Chater—I think we might have a detailed account of what has been expended and what is to be expended to make up the $100,000.

The Chairman—Certainly.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead—In view of regulation 348, why was the matter not submitted to the Public Works Committee or to the Council as has hitherto been the custom in connection with all new works?

The Chairman—The work was considered to be one of emergency, and to save time it was commenced at once.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead—Does that expenditure of $100,000 include any expenses incurred by the naval and military authorities in quelling the opposition by the Chinese to the taking possession of the New Territory?

The Chairman—It includes the expenses incurred in regard to the New Territory.

Hon. T. H. Whitehead—But the military expenditure, has the colony been called upon to pay that?

The Chairman—No.

The Hon. T. H Whitehead—Then in the statement you have offered to place before the Council you would include the expense caused to the Colonial Government by and in consequence of the armed opposition by the Chinese to the British occupation—all the extra expenditure incurred?

The Chairman—On what do you mean, ships and so on?

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead—Has any expense been caused to the Government by the armed opposition of the Chinese?

The Chairman—Not beyond the burning down of the mat-sheds, and the expenditure on account of H.M.S *Fame* and *Ilsumber*.

The Hon T. H. Whitehead—Will that sum cover all the expenses?

The Chairman—The statement which will be laid on the table will give details of the expenditure. I may mention that this $100,000 is simply a sum on account of expenses already incurred and which will be incurred in the immediate future, but this $100,000 will not cover the whole of the expenses of the New Territory this year.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead—There was considerable military expense incurred. Has any claim been made on the colony on account of it?

The Chairman—No claim has been made on the colony in respect of the military expenditure.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead—Will the colony have to bear, or is it likely to be called upon to bear the expense in regard to the military expedition?

The Chairman—That I am unable to answer.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead—With regard to the expense incurred in connection with the occupation of Samchun and Chinese Kowloon City, no claim has been made on the colony?

The Chairman—No claim has been made on the colony.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead—What extra allowances have been recommended to be granted to any of the Government employés for their

services in the New Territory on account of their special tact in dealing with Chinese and their special knowledge of the Chinese language? Has any of this $100,000 been spent in connection with it?

The CHAIRMAN—So far as I am aware no special allowance has been granted to any one for special tact in dealing with Chinese and special knowledge of the Chinese language, but an allowance of 25 per cent. on their pay is granted to certain officers serving over there. The expenditure on that account will be furnished in the statement.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—There is another item in the vote, "Miscellaneous services (other) $40,000." Can you give us any explanation?

The CHAIRMAN—This is made up of two items. One is money the Government had to pay for the repair of "Beaconsfield" and the other is money it had to pay in consequence of the slaughter of certain animals at the instance of the Sanitary Board. In round figures there was about $20,000 to pay in either case.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I am opposed to this vote on account of the expense in connection with "Beaconsfield"

The CHAIRMAN—Then you oppose that item, I understand?

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I oppose that item.

The CHAIRMAN—Is there any other item you wish to ask about?

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The details of the item $20,000 on account of plague will be given?

The CHAIRMAN—If they are desired.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Not full details; a general statement.

The CHAIRMAN—A general statement can be drawn up without much difficulty.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—With regard to the item of $40,000, I think hon. members would like some further information. How came it that the Government had to pay some $20,000 on account of "Beaconsfield," and why was it paid over without information being given to honourable members?

The CHAIRMAN—The Government did not consider itself liable for the amount. The case was tried in the Supreme Court, as is no doubt known to all honourable members present, and the Government had to pay the money because the case went against it.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—But before the Government went into the Supreme Court, was there any offer of any compromise in any shape or form which would have involved the ratepayers in a less serious loss?

The CHAIRMAN—The Government in taking the matter into court did so because it thought it was not justified in paying the amount claimed. It thought it was acting in the best interests of the ratepayers in taking the matter into court, but it lost the case, its surmise not proving correct.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Might not the unofficial members have been consulted before rejecting any reasonable compromise if one was offered?

The CHAIRMAN—I am not aware of any compromise being offered. As I said, the Government thought they were acting in the best interests of the ratepayers.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—Was that decision against the Government? The claim was made by a Chinaman.

The CHAIRMAN—The decision was such that the Government was advised by its legal adviser that it was necessary to pay this money.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—I think in future if information is given to us without our having to find it out it would facilitate the business of the Council say much. In an expenditure like this of $40,000, if the two items were kept apart it would be better.

The CHAIRMAN—Then in a large amount like this you would like the main heads of expenditure to be put down? That seems to be a reasonable request, and I will see that it is carried out.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—Then with regard to the $100,000, we hear that $60,000 of it has been expended, but we really do not know on what.

The CHAIRMAN—I think your request is a very reasonable one, and I shall have satisfaction in seeing that your suggestion is carried out in the future.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Before you put the vote perhaps the honourable member (Hon. E. R. Belilios) can inform us whether any compromise was offered.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—Should I answer such a question as that?

The CHAIRMAN—I do not think this the place to discuss the question again. It has been decided by a court of law, and I do not think the Finance Committee is the place to enter into the merits of the case. To answer the question which the honourable member has been asked would open up the whole case again.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—It is with a view to saving the ratepayers from such a fearful loss in the future. If this matter had been referred to the Public Works Committee in accordance with the regulation——

The CHAIRMAN—This expenditure was never contemplated.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is only fair I should inform the Council that a compromise was suggested and that I advised the Government to accept that compromise. (Hear, hear.) The Government would have saved a great deal of this $19,000 which was made up of costs. In consequence of A Hok losing his case he had a claim against the Government, who had to pay not only his costs but those of Mr. Belilios as well. As I have already informed the Council I strongly advised the Government—as strongly as I could—to accept that compromise, but the Government did not do so.

The CHAIRMAN—As I have already informed the Committee, the Government in taking this matter into court did so believing that it was acting in the best interests of the ratepayers, notwithstanding any advice given to it.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I think at that time Mr. Pollock gave his advice as Acting Attorney-General.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I advised the Government as strongly as I could.

The CHAIRMAN—That is a matter between the Acting Attorney-General and the Government.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It was absolutely impossible for anyone to urge the matter more strongly on the Government than I did.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I move the adjournment of this vote for further consideration until further particulars are furnished. I disapprove very strongly of the mode in which this vote of $40,000 has been brought forward and the mode in which particulars have been concealed.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not quite understand the honourable gentleman. Any information the honourable gentleman has asked for has been given to him. There has been no attempt to conceal anything. There is absolutely nothing to conceal. The request of the Senior Unofficial Member that particulars should be given when a large sum is brought forward to be voted is a reasonable one, and it will be carried out. I have brought forward this vote in the form votes have always been brought forward. The Hon. member has proposed that this vote should be postponed for furthur consideration. Does anybody second?

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI seconded.

On the matter being put to the vote the Hon. T. H. Whitehead's motion was lost, five voting for and six against. The following voted for:—The Hon. Wei A Yuk; the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, the Hon. C. P. Chater, and the Hon. H. E. Pollock. Those who voted against were the Hon. E. R. Belilios the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, the Hon F. H. May the Hon. W. M. Thomson, the Hon. R. M. Rumsey, and the Hon. J. J. Keswick.

The vote was accordingly passed.

MAINTENANCE OF WATER WORKS.

A vote of $6,000 in aid of the vote "Maintenance of Water Works" was agreed to.

THE NEW TERRITORY AGAIN.

The next vote submitted was one in which the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of $38,750 in aid of the following votes:—Passages and Bonuses $5,500, Arms and Ammunition $100, Oil, Wick and Gas for Barracks $1,000, Repairs to Boats and Launches $3,000, Coal, Oil, &c. for Launches $11,200, Conveyance of Police, Prisoners, &c. $3,500, Incidental Expenses $1,500, Clothing and Accoutrements $3,500, Meals for Prisoners in cell $300, Photography $300, Small Arms $100, Ration Allowance $4,000, and Good Conduct Badges $1,350. Total $38,750.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—It is evidently in connection with expenses for the New Territory?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, a good deal in connection with the New Territory.

The vote was passed.

THE POST OFFICE.

A vote of $3,250 in aid of the vote for "Accidental expenses" of the Post Office was agreed to.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The next minute was one in favour of a vote of $5,645·50 to cover the cost of the installation of the electric light at Government House.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD suggested that the item seemed a substantial one.

The CHAIRMAN—If the honourable member would like to have full particulars——

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I have no desire whatever. I suppose in this case they were entirely at the mercy of the Company?

The CHAIRMAN—As far as I am aware, only one Company can do the work in Hongkong, and the Government had to have recourse to its services. As to whether the charges were exorbitant the Director of Public Works will be able to inform you.

The DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS—This matter came before the Public Works Committee. Most of the prices are catalogued prices, and as far as we could judge the Electric Company were not sticking it on in any way.

The CHAIRMAN—Then the Company does not deserve a bad character.

The Director of Public Works—No.

The vote was passed.

LAUNCHES FOR THE NEW TERRITORY.

A vote of $91,500 to cover the cost of steam launches for the use of the New Territory was agreed to.

This was all the business.

SUPREME COURT.

18th August.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE HIGHWAY ROBBERIES.

There were three indictments against Kwan Po, viz.,

1. Larceny from the person.

2. (*a*) Robbery together with one or more persons; (*b*) larceny from the person.

3. (*a*) Robbery and using personal violence; (*b*) larceny from the person.

The second indictment was taken first. Prisoner pleaded not guilty on both counts.

The following were the jurors:—Messrs. A. M. Barradas, J. W. Cumming, Job Mitchell, A. Forbes, G. W. Stanley, J. A. Rowbotham, and B. M. C. da Cunha.

The Acting Attorney-General (the Hon. H. E. Pollock), instructed by Mr. Bowley (Acting Crown Solicitor), appeared for the prosecution. He said prisoner in this case was charged upon two different counts. In the first count prisoner was charged with robbery from Mrs. Fastowsky, and in the second count he was charged with stealing the same property mentioned in the first count—that was to say, a piece of gold chain—from the person of Mrs. Fastowsky. The only difference between the first count and the second count was that in the former, in order to convict, the jury would have to find that some violence was used to Mrs. Fastowsky, while in the latter count it would be quite sufficient to find prisoner guilty of stealing, whether with violence or not. The facts of the case were as follow. Mrs. Fastowsky would tell the jury that she lived at West End Terrace, and at about a quarter to six in the evening of the 24th July she was taking her usual evening walk on the road below her own house, Mount Richmond. When only about a minute's walk from her own house and walking alone she was by herself—she knows a Swede of whom she identified as prisoner—suddenly aware of her on her right hand and stating to her, "Mrs

looked at him and prisoner then walked on for some little way quite close to complainant and just touching up against her apparently. Prisoner walked like that for about 20 paces and then went down the side of a hill. Complainant lost sight of him for a time, but shortly afterwards she heard footsteps as of a man walking quickly behind her. The man came close up—that man was prisoner—and caught her by the collar of her bodice, pulling her down so that she fell backwards on to the ground. She would tell the jury that she was considerably hurt in falling backwards upon the ground, because there was a sharp jagged stone on the road where she fell. While complainant was down prisoner shifted his grip and caught her by the throat with one hand so that she could not cry out, and with his other hand he snatched at her gold watch chain. During the struggle prisoner struck complainant. According to complainant's story prisoner had his knees on her body, and pulled at the watch chain with his hand. In the course of the scuffle, complainant's hat was knocked off. Finally prisoner wrenched away the chain, breaking it by a strong jerk. He then jumped up and Complainant saw part of the watch-chain in his hand. Prisoner then went away, and when he had gone 20 paces he was apparently joined by another man, and soon afterwards she lost sight of them. Complainant would produce before the jury that part of the watch chain which was left behind. The other part had not been found. It would appear that there were some Chinese in a mat-shed close by, but as often happened in these cases they did not appear to have done anything. There were some gentlemen and ladies in a verandah close by, and two of the gentlemen came to her assistance and helped her home. With regard to the violence complainant would tell them that since then she had been considerably shaken in health and upset. As to the identity of prisoner, complainant would tell them that during the whole of the time prisoner was leaning on her she was face to face with him, that his face made a strong impression upon her, and she picked him out of a lot of Chinese at the Central Police Station on the morning of the 4th August without hesitation.

Mrs. Fastewsky gave her evidence in German, Mr. Lammert acting as interpreter. She said there were three or four Chinamen working on a mat-shed They must have heard her screams and seen all that took place, but they did not come to her.

Mr. L. M. J. Alvares, one of the gentlemen who went to Mrs Fastewsky's assistance and attempted to catch prisoner, also gave evidence, as well as Inspector McLennan.

Prisoner had no questions to ask.

On being asked if he had anything to say he made a long rambling statement in which he reiterated his innocence, saying that he was not in Hongkong on the 24th July. He admitted having snatched a note from a lady in order to pay his passage home.

The jury found prisoner guilty on the first count.

The first indictment was then read over, and prisoner pleaded guilty. In that case he was charged with stealing the sum of $20. £1, and a purse, the property of Miss Jane Chun Yut on the 1st August.

As to the third indictment—the robbery from Miss May Carroll—prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. T. F. A. Bune, A. C. da Silva, J. W. Osborne, T. McKay, Isydor Silbermann, F. C. Wilford, and R. D. Hickie.

The Acting Attorney-General said Miss Carrol would tell the jury that on the 29th April she went for a bicycle ride along Kennedy Road with two of her small brothers. On the way she stopped and spoke to some Chinese ladies, her brothers going forward. When going along the road by herself she suddenly saw three Chinamen on her right hand side. One of them stared hard at her, and then came forward and stopped her bicycle. He then looked round and the other men came forward. Complainant was then dragged off her bicycle to the side of the road. One of the men covered her eyes with his hands, but she had had an opportunity of seeing prisoner clearly when he first came up to her. Complainant called for help, and one of the men caught her by the throat and covered up her mouth. Another of them then struck her on the temple with his fist and the third pulled off her bracelet. They also tried to pull a ring off her fingers, but before they could succeed they took alarm and disappeared. On turning round complainant noticed two gentlemen coming round the corner. She made a complaint to them but they did not appear to take her seriously. They told her she would be all right on her bicycle, and did not seem to have given her any assistance. She then met an Indian constable, who took her along to the Union Church. Miss Carroll subsequently picked prisoner out of several Chinamen at the Central Police Station.

The evidence given at the Magistracy was repeated.

The jury found prisoner guilty on the first count.

His Lordship said—Kwan Po, you have been found guilty unanimously by the juries who tried the charges against you of two robberies with violence and one stealing from the person. You seem to have confined your attention to ladies and girls, who were naturally less capable of defending themselves from your cowardly violence and sudden unexpected attacks for the purpose of robbing them than men might have been. For the robbery from the person of Mrs. Fastewsky on the 24th July last you must be imprisoned and kept to hard larbour for three years and receive a flogging, viz., twenty strokes of the birch during the first week of your imprisonment. Your attack upon her was most cruel and cowardly, and you caused her a good deal of bodily pain. For the robbery from the person of Miss Carroll, from whom you stole a bracelet on 29th April last, you must be imprisoned for a further period of one year with hard labour to commence at the expiration of your punishment in Mrs. Fastewsky's case. For the stealing from the person of Jane Chut Yut you must be still further imprisoned with hard labour for the period of one year, to commence at the expiration of the two previous punishments. Together, therefore, your sentences will amount to imprisonment for 5 years in all, and one flogging Had I not taken your previous sentence into account I should have sentenced you to be flogged for your cowardly attack on Miss Carroll, who was a good deal hurt at the time, receiving a blow on her temple and other injuries.

AN 'EXTRAORDINARY" CONSTABLE.

A Chinaman named Leung Hon, recently a constable in the Police Force, was charged (1) with larceny from the person and (2) larceny. In consequence of the recent highway robberies he was detailed to special duty on Bowen Road. On the 6th inst. he called in a mat-shed near the road and robbed an old Chinaman of some money. He pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were—Messrs. E. Ezra, Leo Lambotte, J. H. Kew, D. M. Langrana, W. F. Bamsey, W. K. Low, and S. E. Luz.

The jury found "prisoner" guilty and his Lordship sentenced him to nine months hard labour.

August 21st.

A CHINESE PRIEST CHARGED WITH ROBBERY.

Chan Lun was charged with (1) robbery, together with one or more persons; (2) larceny in a dwelling house with menaces; (3) larceny. He pleaded not guilty.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. A. M. Barrados, J. W. Cumming, W. F. Bamsey, W. K. Low, E Ezra, J. D. Logan, and A. C. da Silva.

The Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney General), instructed by Mr. Bowley (Acting Crown Solicitor), appeared for the prosecution.

Mr. Pollock said complainant, Meng San Tau, was a widow living at Koo Tong, which was a small village in the New Territory, and situated a small distance to the south of the Samchun River. Early on the morning of July 12th she was asleep in her house when her door was broken down with an axe and three men came in. There were seven men engaged in the robbery. One man stood at the doorway and three men stood outside. Complainant had certain property concealed in the wooden partition of her cubicle, namely, $21.50 in money, a silver bangle, four silver hair-pins, a pair of silver ear-rings, and two jackets. Of the seven men some had revolvers, or small fire-arms, and one of them had a knife. They took away from the house the property he had mentioned. Complainant recognised prisoner as one of the seven men. Some of them carried torches, which enabled her to distinguish their features. Complainant had known prisoner for some 20 years. He was quite well-known, being a priest either in that place or somewhere in the neighbourhood. Complainant would tell the jury that prisoner was one of the men who stood outside the doorway whilst the other men were ransacking the place. She would also tell them that so far as she could see prisoner had no weapon in his hand. His Lordship would tell the jury that if they were satisfied prisoner was one of a gang of seven men who went to this house for the common purpose of committing a theft he would be guilty of every act done by any of the other six. Outside the evidence of identification by complainant they had also another link of evidence which the jury might consider of some importance, and that was this: amongst the property stolen were two jackets, and they had evidence that in a purse which apparently belonged to prisoner was found a pawn ticket referring to them. On the 27th July complainant made a complaint to Corporal Sullivan, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, who had been on special police duty in the New Territory, and in consequence of that complaint Corporal Sullivan procured the arrest of prisoner.

The evidence for the prosecution was then given.

The jury found prisoner guilty.

Another charge against prisoner was gone into. It appeared that on leaving the house of the widow the robbers went to the house of prisoners uncle close by. Four of them entered the house and the other three remained outside. Prisoner, who was outside, carried a small fire-arm. The robbers ransacked the house and took away $1 '30 in money, seven silver hair-pins, a pair of silver ear-rings, two rings, a bracelet, and some clothing.

The jurors were Messrs J. Witchell, R. D. Hickie, D. M. Langrana, J. A. Rombach, C. D. Danenberg, B. W. Morrell and A. Forbes.

The jury found prisoner guilty, and his Lordship sentenced him to five years, imprisonment with hard labour for the first offence, and also to receive 20 strokes with the birch, and for the second offence he was sentenced to one year's imprisonment with hard labour, this sentence to follow the other.

AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 17th August.

AGUINALDO'S WAR SECRETARY REPORTED TO BE IN HONKONG.

The *Manila Times* has published an interesting story to the effect that Baldomero Aguinaldo, the former Secretary of War, who has lately been at work in Cavite province, has passed through Manila in disguise and gone to Hongkong with seventy thousand dollars of the insurgent war funds. Baldomero has been the means of raising considerable sums in Batangas and Cavite provinces and the *Times* accuses him of an improper appropriation of the funds. Careful inquiry among official sources and the secret service agents has failed to develope any backing for the story. Prominent Spaniards say that if Baldomero actually did manage to reach Hongkong with large funds in his possession, he went with the object of purchasing arms and supplies.

BRIGADIER GENERAL BATES AND THE SULTAN OF JOLO.

A month ago the steamer *Churucca* sailed from Manila carrying General Bates and a long letter of instructions from General Otis concerning the opening of negotiations with the Sultan of Jolo. With the General went a goodly sack of generous proportions containing 10,000 pesos, which was to be used in furthering the good work. General Otis realized that the mission was a delicate one requiring the most diplomatic treatment, and accordingly his instructions were most comprehensive, and apparently covered all possible phases of situations that might be expected to arise; but there were one or two points overlooked and it was just here that the difficulty crept in.

The crafty Sultan has notions patterned somewhat after those of the Emperor of China in regard to divine right, peer of peers, and light inside of mankind in general. He has joggled along in the pompous footsteps of his haughty predecessors right through all the intricacies of Spanish diplomacy, and he does not propose to change his pace for any known beings, that is, not so that anyone can notice it.

When General Bates arrived he sent word of his coming to the Sultan, who lives on the opposite side of the island. The Sultan, with the utmost courtesy, sent his congratulations on the safe voyage of the American chief through the perilous Archipelago. Considerably suprised, but not at all discouraged, the General sent another courier on his long trip to the palace of the Sultan, to say that he would like to discuss matters with His Excellency. That obliging and condescending individual, with politeness and hospitality, returned the message that he would be simply delighted to have the the American representative call on him. About this time General Bates began to realize that his mission was a trifle more difficult than he had anticipated and that the question of arranging a meeting was really a serious undertaking. But this kind of thing could not go on much longer and it was not just in line with the treatment usually accorded a General. So Bates sent the Sultan a rather peremptory message to the effect that he was wanted at Jolo to discuss affairs of importance. In due time back came the willing courier to inform the General that His Excellency the Sultan was engaged in the celebration of the most profound religious ceremonies, and could not be disturbed with paltry mundane affairs under a any consideration for a period of at least week.

This rather settled the question for the time being, as the instructions were to assure the Moros that they might enjoy perfect religious freedom, and under no circumstances were they to be disturbed or hampered. It must be remembered that many days had already passed in allowing the couriers to cross and recross the narrow island and here was an assured delay of a week at least. Well, the General waited and his staff and aids and the 10,000 pesos. However, the time was not spent in idleness, for some of the neighbouring ports were visited and two or three Dattos controlling dependencies of the Sultan were interviewed. From these it was learned that the Sultan was a man of weak character, not over honest, and unpopular with his people. The old Sultana his mother, in reality holds the reins and practically rules for the son. The leasing of the rich pearl fisheries to the Chinese and Germans has caused a great deal of dissension among the Dattos, or headmen, who rule the districts under the Sultan's way. It is claimed that the proceeds of these leases are tied up in the coffers of the Sultan instead of being fairly divided among those who are entitled to shares. One of the Dattos is most positive in his expressions of dislike and it would take but little to bring on a fight.

Finally the day set apart for religious uses came to a close and the Sultan called on the General attended by a gorgeously and barbarically arrayed retinue. The visit was most formal and consisted merely in a lengthy exchange of polite expressions, beyond which neither side seemed able to penetrate. Then the Sultan went back to his palace on the other side of the island and according to latest accounts he had not again favoured the infidels with a sight of his holy person. Under these circumstances, negotiations are rather tardy and unsatisfactory.

The General in the meantime paid a visit to North Borneo, where model the English government can be advantageously studied. He also sailed around the coasts of the Sulu group and looked in on Mindanao. The various Dattos who acknowledge the rule of the Sultan have followings of from one to thirty or perhaps fifty thousand men, and some of them are fine fellows and possess considerable intelligence. The Datto Mundi, who rules 400 miles along the Zamboanga peninsula of Mindanao, called on General Bates and expressed himself as being anxious for the friendship of the Americans. He made a favourable impression and while he perhaps does not exactly understand just what is going on nevertheless he manages well.

The Datto Jakanin is a neighbour of the Sultan and also one of his worst enemies. He is a claimant for the throne, very much displeased with the present ruler, and rather looks for a chance to fight. With his 2,500 henchmen he boasts that he can place his chief on the shelf in short order. It is very possible that trouble will soon follow.

The insurgents about Zamboanga are stripping the houses of their iron roofs and carrying them up to the hills behind the town where they are constructing elaborate trenches. The whole place is gradually being destroyed. As yet no troops have been landed, but from all accounts two hundred and fifty men could easily land and hold the town without fear of serious opposition. The U.S. gunboat *Castine* patrols the harbour.

General Bates remains in the vicinity of Jolo and will probably be there until something definite can be arranged with the Sultan and his Dattos.

THE "HOOKER" ON A REEF.

The U.S. cable-ship *Hooker*, which went on a reef in the northern channel near Carregidor island a week ago, is still unfloated. The *Baltimore* and *Concord* attempted to pull her off into deeper water, but their efforts proved fruitless. Two of the Maritima Company's most powerful steamers also failed to budge her. For the last three days the cargo of cable and supplies has been taken out, but still the ship refuses to move. As some of the plates are injured considerable water has collected in the hold. If any of the storms of this season should come up it is doubtful if the vessel can live through them.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE DISTURBED STATE OF KWANGTUNG.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF PIRACY.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF BRITISH GUNBOATS RECOMMENDED.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

Hongkong, 31st July, 1899.

Sir,—We beg to enclose copies of letters which our Canton firms have addressed to H.B.M.'s Consul at Canton, and also to the Canton Chamber of Commerce, on the subject of the disorganisation of the silk trade there, caused by the lawlessness now prevalent in the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, which seriously interferes with the delivery of silk that is under contract to foreign buyers.

The Chinese officials hitherto have shown themselves quite incapable of coping with the situation, which is daily becoming worse, and it requires no stretch of imagination to discern that this state of affairs must seriously interfere with all branches of trade.

The large interests involved impel us to request the Committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce to take up this matter as early as possible, and to make such representations to H.B.M.'s Minister at Peking that steps may be taken for the effective protection of British interests in these provinces.

Trusting that the Committee will be good enough to give their early attention to this important question.—We are, sir, your faithfully,

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.
REISS & CO.

To the Secretary Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Canton, 25th July, 1899.

R. W. Mansfield Esq., H. B. M.'s Consul, Canton.

Dear Sir,—The undersigned British firms beg to bring to your notice that they have received a letter from a number of silk dealers referring to the unsettled state in the chief silk districts near Canton, which renders it impossible to them to duly deliver to us the silk previously sold to us for forward delivery.

We beg to enclose a copy of said letter received by us, giving details of a few of the robberies, piracies, and blackmailing cases committed lately.

Since several weeks our native friends have daily been reporting to us cases and explaining to us why the deliveries of silk should come in so slowly, but instead of diminishing, the danger to the trade in general has increased, and this silk trade (owing to the great value of silk), has been growing daily, so that the interests of the foreign firms in Canton are now seriously affected.

As is usual in the silk trade, the native merchants have during the last 4/5 months made considerable contracts with the foreign firms, for delivery chiefly in June, July, August. Some considerable deliveries were made in time, but since a few weeks, notwithstanding a good third crop having come forward, deliveries are daily falling off.

As you will see from the information sent to you direct by each of the undersigned, the contracts they have still on hand are of considerable magnitude and we would therefore ask you to find some means to protect as far as possible, our threatened interests.

It is evident that all the silk bought by us from the natives has been sold in Europe and America and that we are responsible for all claims arising from late or non-delivery of these silks.—We are, dear sir, yours most respectfully,

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.
HERBERT DENT & CO.
ROWE & CO.
T. E. GRIFFITH
REISS & CO.

Canton, 25th July, 1899.

To the Chairman, Canton Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—We have pleasure in handing you herewith press copy of a joint letter, sent by us to-day, as British silk merchants, to H.B.M.'s Consul here, with reference to the disastrous robberies, piracies, and blackmailing cases committed lately in the chief silk districts.

This matter being one of very great importance to a great many of the members of the Chamber, we beg to suggest that the Committee of the Canton Chamber of Commerce also address the Consul on this subject, so as to add more weight to the complaint brought forward by us.—We are, dear sir, yours faithfully,

Reiss & Co.

We the undersigned Silk merchants of Canton having made contracts with fixed delivery with your firm, have to inform you that owing to the present unsettled state in the silk districts, we are afraid of being unable to fulfil the said engagements in due time.

Owing to numerous robberies piracies and blackmailing cases occurred within the last few weeks in the chief silk districts, it has become almost impossible for us to get the silk down from the country, and our agents there have asked us not to forward any more money to them, as the boats carrying it would likely be intercepted.

As a few instance of the numerous robberies perpetrated lately we may quote:—

At 9 a.m. 9-7-99 in Kong Tan creek some pirates abducted a supercargo and his cocoons belonging to the cocoon shops of Koon Shan in Namhoi District.

Sheung Fung & Co, Kung Kee & Co and other cocoon shops in Koon Shan have been threatened and asked for a sum of Tls. 500 from each shop, and as they refused to pay, they are pressed to pay a larger sum of Tls. 900 each.

At 8 a.m. 10-7-99 in Nam Hu's cocoon dealer was robbed, and lost 40 odd packages of cocoons; one boatman killed and another wounded.

Each of the four cocoon shops in Lok Chung Hi of Shun Tak has been asked to pay a sum of Tls. 700.

At noon, 14-7-99 a cocoon boat was robbed at the entrance of the creek of Kai Tai village, loot worth 1,000 odd taels. The silk merchants of Sz Shu and Sai Po Hui have also to pay sums up to several hundred taels.

These occurrences do seriously interfere with the whole silk trade and unless your firm in combination with the other foreign silk firms can through your Consul bring some pressure on the Chinese Government to take immediate steps to clear the country of the numerous gangs of robbers and pirates, we fear that by many of ours we will not be able to fulfil our engagements punctually.

Your fellow shippers.

Canton, 24th July, 1899.

SUPLEMENTARY REPORT.

A timber dealer in Sin Tong, Namhoi district, was forced to pay $10.000.

Cheong Hop of Sui Tung, Shun Tak district, timber merchant, had his cargo seized on the way to Lo Chun by robbers; $400 had to be paid for the release of same.

Two (2) girls in a house boat in Heung Kau, Shun Tak district, were abducted and held for ransom.

At Lok Cheng, Shun Tak district, $4,000 were demanded from all the pork dealers. The money not forthcoming, three boats laden with pigs valued at $200 to $300 each were seized.

Four houses at Loong Kong were surrounded by robbers and clothing and jewellery, &c., carried away.

At Kwong Wah, Shun Tak district, an eating house was robbed of $600.

A boat from Loong Kong to Sui Lam, nearing Locklow, was "held up" by pirates and $1,200 stolen.

Another boat, plying from Canton to Kong Moon, was stopped by pirates and threatened to be seized unless the captain pay $400 on his next trip.

At Loong Kong, Shun Tak district, a rich family was robbed to the extent of $2,000.

A steam launch from Macao to Wuchow was held by pirates, valuable cargo stolen, and the purser shot.

A steam launch from Canton to Whampoa was likewise stopped by pirates and $1,000 stolen.

Quan Hing, a silk merchant, sending money to Loong Kong to buy silk, was robbed on the way to the extent of $1,000.

Hongkong, 10th August. 1899.

R. M. Gray, Esq., Chairman,

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce,

Dear Sir,—A practical instance of the interruption to trade caused by piracy on the rivers of the Kwangtung province was brought before us this morning when a leading dealer refused to entertain business in produce on the ground that there was no security for transport. The business would in ordinary circumstances, we believe, have gone through.

On questioning the dealer, he alleged that repeated cases of junks "held up" for payments, had recently occurred, causing serious apprehension, that under the circumstances he preferred not to come under engagement.—We are, dear sir, yours faithfully,

BRADLEY & Co.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 14th August, 1899.

Dear Sirs,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. giving a very practical instance of the interruption to business caused by piracy now prevailing in the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, which I laid before the Committee. The subject is now receiving attention at the hands of the Committee, who trust their representations will not prove without effect.—I am, dear sirs, yours faithfully,

R. M. GRAY,
Chairman.

To Messrs. Bradley and Co., Hongkong.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 11th August, 1899.

Sir,—By the courtesy of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson Co., we sent yesterday, through the medium of Mr. W. Keswick, M. P., the following telegram to you:—

"Kwang provinces very unsettled. No reliance can be placed in the Viceroy of Canton. Piracy interferes seriously with trade. We urge upon you the necessity of more gunboats to protect our interests West River."

I now beg to confirm the above, and in doing so will endeavour to give some particulars of the condition of affairs in the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, through which the West River and its numerous feeders flow.

For some time past, owing to the weakness and corruption of the Administration, the rich producing districts in these provinces have been devastated by bands of robbers, who, encouraged by impunity and enriched by plunder, have armed themselves, acquired junks and even steam-launches, by the aid of which they have "held up" whole villages and towns and pirated vessels on the rivers. These outrages have increased latterly to such an extent that within the last month no less than nineteen daring robberies and piracies, many of them attended with bloodshed, have been committed within the silk producing districts alone, and these are only cases that have been brought to our notice; the actual condition of affairs being in reality far worse than this statement might be supposed to indicate. The pirates are growing so bold that they are only deterred by the greater risk from attacking foreign as well as native steamers. Indeed, only as recently as the 20th ult. on the West River a steam-launch flying the Portuguese flag was overhauled and boarded by a piratical launch, the Portuguese in charge and a native seaman shot down, and the vessel looted. Since then another steamer has been stopped and the cargo removed by the pirates.

The feeble attempts of the Canton Government to cope with the banditti and pirates, who are now in a position to blackmail the industrious portion of the population, have been worse than useless. The marauders are well armed with rifles and revolvers, have their strongholds in the hills, and have so far successfully defied any force of so-called soldiers the Viceroy may, under pressure have despatched to attempt their suppression.

Trade has for some months been greatly hampered by the feeling of insecurity induced through the frequent robberies and the extortion practised by the heads of the gangs, but lately the position has become much more serious. The Silk trade is completely disorganised in consequence thereof. The merchants in Canton who have made contracts to deliver silk to foreign firms there, have given formal notice that they are afraid they may be unable to fulfil their engagements owing to the danger attending the transport of silk and treasure. The silk filatures and cocoon shops in the silk districts have been threatened and plundered, and unless order is soon restored it is to be feared that trade will be reduced to small limits. The foreign steamboats engaged in the river trade now only get light cargoes and even the passage traffic is much restricted.

The appearance of one small British gunboat (the *Sandpiper*) on the West River has been hailed with considerable satisfaction and her presence is much appreciated by merchants and traders; but this great waterway is lengthy and the pirates are so numerous that the moral effect is necessarily restricted, and a small flotilla of these useful and serviceable craft is desirable if the West River is to be efficiently patrolled, while light draught steam-launches might be usefully employed for work in the creeks. It is useless to look for any effective action from the present Viceroy, and as his influence at Peking is understood to be considerable, it is to be feared that any reference to the Tsungli Yamen would at best result in some temporary measures of doubtful utility. In the increase of the British patrolling squadron only can we hope for any permanent improvement in the present state of disorder. A precedent exists for this intervention, as in former years Her Majesty's warships undertook to scotch piracy on the coast of China, and accomplished the work so thoroughly that this pest to commerce was practically extinguished, only recurring since at long intervals and under exceptional circumstances.

My Committee will be glad therefore if the East India and China Section of your Chamber can see its way to take up this important question and press it upon the attention of the Imperial Government. This Chamber is already indebted to your Chamber for the vigorous and effective manner in which it espoused the cause of this Colony in connection with the representation sent home on the question of the extension of of its boundaries and the inclusion therein of Kowloon city, and the Committee now hope you will be equally successful in convincing the Government of the deplorable state of affairs now existing in these two provinces and of the urgent necessity for prompt and decisive action to prevent the disorganisation and possible suspension of trade on the southern waterways of China.—I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Kenric B. Murray, Esq., Secretary,
London Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 14th August, 1899.

Sir,—It is with regret that the Committee of this Chamber have to bring to your attention facts that are not only reducing the concession lately obtained of the opening to foreign trade of the inland waterways of South China to a valueless point, but are also seriously hampering and restricting business generally.

I allude to the piracy on the West River and the condition of disorder and lawlessness which prevails in wide districts of both the two Kwang provinces. Bands of brigands, well armed with modern weapons, and possessing strongholds among the hills, make descents upon the villages and towns in the silk producing and other prosperous districts and either plunder the inhabitants or extort regular contributions from merchants and producers. Traders carrying produce to port of shipment and those returning with the bullion received therefor are robbed, and, if they offer resistance are shot or otherwise disposed of. Vessels of all descriptions on the river, from native junks to foreign steam-launches, are attacked and looted, and in several cases murder has preceded robbery. Only so lately as the 20th ult. a launch flying the flag of Portugal was boarded by a pirate craft, the master shot, the crew overpowered, and the vessel robbed.

It is perhaps hardly to be wondered that under such circumstances, the wealthier inhabitants of those districts should be sending their money for investment elsewhere, or that the silk merchants at Canton should have given notice that there is some possibility that they may not be able to fulfil contracts for delivery of silk, the producers being afraid either to attempt its transport to Canton or to make the return journey with treasure of which they are so likely to be despoiled en route. Native merchants are, as a result, loth to enter into contracts for export, and business threatens to come to a comparative standstill. The foreign steamboat companies, which have been pluckily engaged in an uphill pioneer work on the West River, also find their earnings seriously curtailed by the operations of the pirates and banditti.

The British Consul at Canton has no doubt informed you of the condition of affairs in the Two Kwang, and not improbably he has made you acquainted with the very unsatisfactory nature of the steps taken by the Viceroy to cope with predatory gangs who set the local authorities at defiance. The Committee trust you may make such representations to the Tsungli Yamen as will lead to a determined effort on the part of the Provincial Government to put down the banditti and pirates, whose lawless actions, if continued, will render legitimate commerce all but impossible.

It is to be feared, however, that under the administration of the present Viceroy no really sustained effort is likely to be made to restore the sovereignty of the law in these provinces, and the Committee are of opinion that the most practical as well as the surest means of restoring confidence and safety along the southern waterways will be for Her Majesty's Government to employ a flotilla of boats of the *Sandpiper* class to patrol the West River, with armed shallow-draft steam-launches to watch the creeks. The appearance of such craft in the waterways would be hailed with satisfaction by the native traders and merchants and need not excite official hostility, as they could act in conjunction with the vessels employed for the Canton Government, but which, unfortunately, are ludicrously inadequate for the work and not infrequently go off duty to act as tugs for native craft. The number of gunboats and guardboats on the river has, if I am rightly informed, been reduced. The above suggestion has been already mooted, in telegrams despatched to London, and the Committee trust it will receive your approval and support.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY,
Chairman.

To H. O. Bax Ironside, Esq., H. B. M.'s Charge d'Affairs, Peking.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong 5th August, 1899.

Sir,—I am directed to transmit to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter addressed by this Chamber to

Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking on the subject of the disorders prevailing in the Kwang province (culminating on the 12th inst. in an engagement with the Imperial troops at Cot-Kaw on the West River which ended in the complete defeat of the troops by the rebels) and the consequent derangement of trade on the inland waterways.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 10th August, 1899.

Sir,—I beg to hand you herewith a copy of the letter addressed by this Chamber to Mr. Bax-Ironside, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, on the subject of the internal disorders and lawlessness prevailing in the Kwang provinces and their effect upon trade generally and silk business in particular.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY,
Chairman.

To H. B. M.'s Consul, Canton.

THE SUBSIDIARY COINAGE QUESTIONS.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last monthly meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 25th July, 1899.

Sir,—With reference to previous' correspondence on the subject of subsidiary coinage, I am directed to transmit to you for the information of the Chamber of Commerce a copy of a report by the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into the matter.

Mr. Whitehead, who was also a member of the Committee, did not sign the report, but his view may be gathered from the enclosed copy of a minute written by him on the original draft report.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary,

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong, July, 1899.

Sir,—We have the honour to report for His Excellency's information that we have discussed the question of Subsidiary Coinage and have passed the following resolutions, viz:—

(1). That an ample supply of Hongkong subsidiary coin be always kept in the Colony; and (2) that, in view of the fact that Hongkong subsidiary coin is the only legal tender, restriction or prohibition of the import of subsidiary coin from the Canton Mint is unnecessary, and, in our opinion, impracticable.—We have, &c.,

A. M. THOMSON.
T. JACKSON.
J. THUBBURN.
R. M. GRAY.

The Honourable, The Colonial Secretary, &c.,

Minute by Mr. Whitehead.—What is the weigh and fineness of Canton coinage? If inferior should any recommendation be made? I agree to the Resolutions but think we should go further.

T. H. WHITEHEAD.
18th July, 1899.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 25th July, 1899.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of this date, forwarding for the information of this Chamber a copy of the report by the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to inquire into the question of the subsidiary coinage, and which shall be laid at once before my Committee.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obdient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 10th August, 1899.

R. C. Wilcox Esq., Secretary,
Hongkong, General Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the Colonial Secretary's letter (1204) of 25th ulto. to you re the Report signed by four of the five members of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into and report on the question of the unrestricted influx into this Colony of Subsidiary Coins issued by the Canton Mint, and more particularly to the concluding paragraph of the said letter viz:—

"Mr. Whitehead, who was also a member of the Committee, did not sign the Report but his views may be gathered from the enclosed copy of a minute written by him on the original draft Report."

I beg to enclose for the information of the Chamber a copy of my letter of 31st ulto. to the Hon. A. M. Thomson, Chairman of the Committee on Question of Subsidiary Coinage together with a copy of his reply. So far I have not received any further communication from the Government on the subject.—Yours very truly,

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hongkong, 31st July, 1899.

Dear Thomson,—In my letter of 15th inst. I said that I desired to be supplied with a memorandum showing the annual productions of subsidiary coins, detailed, of the Canton Mint 1859 to 1898 inclusive. I further asked for copies of the Ordinances and Orders in Council now in force regulating legal tender money in the Colony, and if possible an estimate of the total amount of subsidiary coins now in in circulation in the Colony including Straits. Japanese. and Chinese pieces.

In your letter in reply you inform me that you had sent these requests on to Government, but that you did not think the answer would affect the report.

So far I have received no answer to the above applications and I shall be much obliged if you will kindly inform me why no answer has been furnished. I require same to enable me to send in a report.

In a minute date 18th inst. to the draft report you then sent round I wrote:—"What is the weight and fineness of Canton coinage? If inferior should any recommendation be made? I agree to the Resolution but think we should go further" but so far have received no reply to my queries, and I am at a loss to understand the course of action, which you have elected to follow in the matter.—Yours very truly,

T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. A. M. Thomson, Chairman, Committee on Question of Subsidiary Coinage.

Treasury, 1st August, 1899.

Dear Whitehead,—I sent on all your requests to Government and will pass on your letter of yesterday as a reminder.

Four members of the Committee having been satisfied that the enquiry was complete, and you having had an opportunity of signing the Report, there was no option but to send it on.—I am, yours very truly,

A. M. THOMSON.

THE FORMOSA TEA TAX.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last monthly meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

Amoy General Chamber of Commerce.
Amoy, 25th July, 1899.

Sir,—I beg to enclose copy of a despatch which this Chamber is sending to Sir E. Satow, K.C.M.G., H.B.M's Minister at Tokyo, protesting against a discriminating duty of yen 1.60 per picul on Formosa tea which the Japanese Government intends to impose from the 4th prox. on shipments to Foreign Countries whilst allowing tea to be shipped from Formosa to Japan free of duty and thence exported abroad likewise free of duty.

If your Chamber can endorse the views set forth, any support that you may be able to give them will be much appreciated.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. J. DUNNE,
Secretary.

The Secretary, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Amoy General Chamber of Commerce.
Amoy, 24th July, 1899.

Your Excellency,—Referring to the telegram which this Chamber despatched to you to-day reading:—

"Chamber Commerce urge you protest against duty Formosa tea other than that leviable Japan. Despatch of date follows.—Cass Chairman."

I have the honour to bring to your notice that the Formosan Government has notified its intention of imposing a duty of yen 1.60 per picul on tea exported from Formosa to foreign countries, whilst tea exported to Japan will be free of duty and may be shipped thence abroad likewise free of duty.

The object of this proposed duty is to favour the line of steamers running between Formosa and Japan and to divert the tea trade as much as possible from the present channel via Amoy and Hongkong by placing a discriminating duty of yen 1.60 per picul on it.

This would not seem to be in accordance with the new Treaties, which, as we read them, require that Japan and her possessions should have the same tariff.

The consumption of Formosa tea in Japan and China is absolutely nil; such teas, whether landed in Japan, a China port, or Hongkong, are in transit for the United States, Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, Australia, or the Dutch Colonies. The route from Formosa viâ Japan might favour the teas shipped by the Pacific, but as regards the great bulk of the shipments, that is, those viâ Suez to the United States, Great Britain, and the Continent of Europe, and those to Australia and the Dutch Colonies, it is out of the question to send such to Japan. The proposed duty would therefore discriminate in favour of one route to one country, and against all other routes and countries.

It is argued that the Japanese Government only asserts its right to fix the tariff between Formosa and Amoy (the latter being a Chinese port) in accordance with agreements between Japan and China. This argument disregards the fact as shown above, that the teas do not come to Amoy for consumption, but in transit to foreign countries.

Our merchants claim that they are at liberty to clear their teas at the Formosa Customs for the United States, Europe, &c., via Amoy or any other route, paying duty according to the Japan tariff applicable to such countries of final destination, and it is in the hope that you will support this view that this Chamber asks your assistance in combatting in good time any disability which may be impending to the liberty of a merchant to ship by whichever route he may please.—I have the honour to be, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

FRANCIS CASS, Chairman.

Sir Ernest M. Satow, K.C.M.G., H.B.M.'s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Tokio.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 5th August, 1899.

Sir,—The attention of this Chamber has been drawn by the Amoy Chamber of Commerce to a notification issued by the Government of Formosa announcing the imposition of a duty of yen 1.60 per picul on tea exported from Formosa to foreign countries, whilst the leaf if exported to Japan is exempted from duty and can be shipped thence to foreign ports free of imposts. This of course amounts to the imposition of a discriminating duty, specially designed to divert the tea trade of Formosa from its accustomed channels and to compel shippers to send it in the Japanese subsidized steamers to Japan instead of, as at present, viâ Amoy and Hongkong. As the vast bulk of these teas go by way of the Suez Canal to the United States, Great Britain, and the Continent of Europe, it would be obviously most inconvenient to ship them viâ Japan.

The imposition of a discriminatory duty on an article of export in a Japanese possession in order to divert traffic is not, this Chamber ventures to think, in accordance with the spirit of the new Treaties, which may be taken to authorize the clearance of teas through the Formosan Customs for foreign ports by any route, provided they pay duty according to the Japanese tariff, without being compelled to ship them in the first instance to Japan.

This Chamber, therefore, strongly supports the protest addressed to you by the Amoy Chamber of Commerce on the subject, and sincerely trusts that your Excellency will succeed in convincing the Japanese Government of the inequitable and illiberal character of the step they propose to take and which if persisted in cannot fail to inflict unexpected loss and annoyance on those foreign firms who have for so many years embarked their capital and employed their energies in the development of a trade which they never doubted would remain free from discriminating duties when the Japanese Government took over the administration of the island.—I have honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. M. GREY,
Chairman.

To His Excellency Sir E. Satow, K.C.M.G., &c.,
Her Britannic Majesty's Minister to Japan.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 5th August, 1899.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th ult. enclosing copy of a despatch addressed by your Chamber to H.E. Sir E. Satow, K.C.M.G., Her Britannic Majesty's Minister at Tokyo, protesting against a discriminating duty of yen 1.60 per picul on Formosa teas which the Japanese Government proposed to levy from the 4th instant on shipments to foreign countries whilst permitting tea to be shipped from Formosa to Japan free of duty and thence exported also free.

In reply to your request that this Chamber will give your Chamber a protest its support, I am directed to inform you that the Committee have addressed the British Minister in Japan on the subject, and to transmit for your information copy of the despatch.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

The Secretary, Amoy General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 5th August, 1899.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a despatch addressed to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in Tokyo on the subject of the imposition by the Japanese Government of a discriminating duty on Formosa teas shipped to foreign countries whilst shipment made to Japanese ports are allowed free of duty and thence abroad likewise free of duty.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.

PREFERENTIAL DUTIES ON JUNK BORNE CARGO.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last monthly meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 18th July, 1899.

Sir,—It is with regret that I have once more to address Her Majesty's Representative on a subject so time-worn and so unsatisfactory in the results hitherto arrived at as that of the differential duties accorded to junk borne cargo by the Hoppo or Superintendent of Native Customs at Canton.

In previous correspondence this Chamber has dealt with the question at great length, but at the risk of reiteration I am compelled by reason of its importance, to again go somewhat into detail.

It is well known, and cannot be reasonably disputed, that the Steamboat Companies plying on the Canton River have for many years past been losing cargo not through competition of rates but owing to the lower duties paid by that competition shipped by junk. Documentary proof of this practice by the Native Customs of levying lower duties on goods carried in native craft has been asked for, but has never been obtainable owing to the subterfuge of native shippers to quite forward and testify for obvious reasons.

So far back as April, 1874, the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Ltd. had reason to complain of the action of the Hoppo in influencing the quanity of cargo carried by their steamers. In the first three quarters of the year 1873 the steamers received their usual cargo of between 21,000 and 23,000 bales of raw cotton, but this suddenly fell, in the fourth quarter, to 1821 bales and in the first quarter of 1874 it sank to 25 bales only. Since that date, when the trade in Raw Cotton was thus diverted, other articles of export have followed, such as waste silk, tea, cassia, matting, fans, firecrackers, canes, preserves, &c., until at the present moment the only trade of any great value remaining is the carrying of passengers. Whereas, prior to 1873 the Steamboat Co. received some 85 per cent. to 90 per cent. of the foregoing exports, they now carry at the utmost not more than 10 per cent. of the articles above named. Raw silk, owing to its costly nature, is still shipped in the steamers, but beyond small odd shipments of the other products, owing to various causes, such as pressure of time, temporary want of junk tonnage, or bad weather, the cargo still left to the steamers consists mainly of perishable goods for the food supply of this Colony.

The Committee would respectfully draw attention to the fact that the River Steamboat Companies were formed, and that they built large and costly vessels unsuitable for any other traffic, on the faith of the rights guaranteed by the Treaty of Tientsin, of which rights the companies submit they have been insidiously and unfairly deprived without compensation, and, in spite of repeated protests, without redress.

The assertions of the Steamboat Companies as to the diversion of export cargo from their steamers to junks can be amply and fully corroborated by the Imperial Maritime Customs at Canton; and, where the facts are so notorious as in the present instance, the Committee submit there is no necessity for documentary evidence by Chinese.

Seeing that any prospect of redress is obviously slender so long as the two competing Customs services are maintained side by side in Kwangtung and that their continued existence synchronously must serve to obstruct and limit foreign as well as native trade in the province, the Chamber is strongly of opinion that Her Majesty's Government would be justified in demanding the abolition of the Native Customs with its Hoppo, and that the entire collection of duties be placed in the hands of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, who could reimburse the Provincial Treasury the sum at present contributed by the Hoppo. The present system is abnormal, wasteful, and unpractical, defensible from no point of view save on the assumption that the collection by the Imperial Maritime Customs would be a confiscation of provincial revenue, and such an assumption could not be seriously maintained. The Chamber therefore urge that, in the interests of trade and in defence of violated Treaty rights, the abolition of this Customs anachronism may be insisted upon by the British Government, who would no doubt be supported by the other Treaty Powers in so just and reasonable a demand.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. M. GREY,
Chairman.

His Excellency H. O. Bax-Ironside, H.B.M.'s Chargé d'Affaires, Peking.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 18th July, 1899.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, copy of a letter addressed by this Chamber to His Excellency Mr. H. O. Bax-Ironside, Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking, under this date, on the subject of the differential duties accorded by the Hoppo or Superintendent of Native Customs at Canton on junk-borne cargo to the detriment of the Steamboat Companies engaged in trade on the Canton river.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office.
Hongkong, 22nd July, 1899.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst., forwarding a copy of a letter addressed by the Chamber of Commerce to Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking on the subject of the preferential duties accorded by the Hoppo at Canton on junk-borne cargo, and to state that His Excellency earnestly hopes that the Chamber's representations may conduce to a satisfactory settlement of this important question.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

A POST OFFICE MISTAKE.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last monthly meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

Foochow General Chamber of Commerce.
29th July, 1899.

To the Chairman of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,—On behalf of the members of this Chamber I wish to bring the following case to your notice, asking at the same time for your valuable and kind assistance to have the recurrence of such scandalous blundering on the part of the Hongkong Post Office made impossible.

The facts of the case are briefly as follows:—The steamer *Chingtu* left this port on the 19th June with about 3,000 tons tea. The steamer going direct to Australia via Hongkong of course all documents, invoices, letters of advice, etc, etc., were posted by her.

This mail, as we are informed now, was landed in Hongkong and not forwarded till about 10 days later by the *Futami Maru*.

In reply to an enquiry made regarding the non-arrival of a registered cover which was wired from Melbourne the General Post Office writes to the Postal Agent here as follows:—

"The registered cover in question arrived here ex steamer *Chingtu* at 10 a.m. on the 21st inst. I have examined the arrival book and I find that on the morning of the 21st June there was quite a large number of arrivals from Coast Ports. The *Chingtu* left on the same day at 1 p. m. for Australia. The mail closing at 12 noon. The letter in question was not sent by the *Chingtu as the Foochow mail was not dealt with until the Australian Mails had been closed.* It was eventually forwarded to Melbourne per steamer *Futami Maru* 30-6-99 entered at 1 on list. (Signed) BARRON.

Comment is unnecessary and I would respectfully ask you to support us in our demand to the Hongkong General Post Office that in future mails by direct steamers to Australia or Europe are to be made up in Foochow and in no way to be interfered with in Hongkong.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

G. SIEMSSEN,
Chairman.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 8th August, 1899.

Sir,—I beg to hand you herewith copy of a letter received from the Foochow Chamber of Commerce, containing a complaint of the action of the Post Office in a certain case, the circumstances attending which my Committee think that you will probably be glad of the opportunity to explain.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Capt. Hastings, R.N., Postmaster General.

General Post Office,
Hongkong, 9th August, 1899.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. and its enclosures respecting a complaint against this office from the Foochow Chamber of Commerce, and to state that that Chamber has already addressed me directly on the subject, to whom I have replied.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. C. H. HASTINGS,
Postmaster General.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 14th August, 1899.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 20th ult., bringing to the notice of this Chamber a charge against the Hongkong Post Office of detention of letters to Australia which should have gone forward by the steamer in which they were despatched from Foochow.

A copy of your letter was forwarded to the Postmaster-General with a request for an explanation. To this, the enclosed reply has been received. Will you kindly furnish this Chamber with a copy of the reply referred to by Capt. Hastings?—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY,
Chairman.

To G. Siemssen, Esq., Chairman, Foochow Chamber of Commerce.

THE OPIUM BILL.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last monthly meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 20th July, 1899.

Sir,—I beg leave to acknowledge recept of your despatch (No. 64) of the 15th ult. enclosing draft of a Bill entitled "An Ordinance to further amend the Raw Opium Ordinance, 1899," for the consideration of the Committee, and also of your letter of the 3rd inst. asking that an answer to the first might be returned as soon as possible.

With reference to the latter, I am instructed to express the Committee's regret at the unavoidable delay that has taken place in the consideration of this measure, the importance of which and the possible consequence of certain of its clauses having necessitated very searching inquiries.

I am now directed to offer the subjoined observations on the Bill:—

1.—Section 2. The wording of this section is somewhat obscure, and its provisions are open to grave objections, as they would, if enforced, render business in other than Bengal opium impracticable. Importers are obliged to open cases of Malwa, Persian, and Turkey drug, and give samples varying from 2 to 6 taels in weight, according to quality, for the purposes of boiling and testing before purchase. Malwa is divided into various grades, soft, hard, new and old of different qualities and values, and no sale can be effected without first giving intending buyers an opportunity of testing the drug to ascertain its value, which varies in some cases as much as $100 per chest.

2.—Section 3, amending section 9 of Ordinance 22, making provision for the establishment of Bonded Warehouses. The opium merchants strongly urge that the practice followed in Shanghai be adopted here, substituting, however, the merchant's godowns in Hongkong for the hulks at the Treaty Port, the merchants giving similar bonds to that required in Shanghai and conforming to like regulations to those in force there.

3.—Section 4. The Committee are of opinion that the second sentence of paragraph 1 of this section should be omitted. They submit that it is wholly unnecessary, and, if retained, would give the Opium Farmer, himself a large exporter, an unfair advantage over the merchants by placing it in his power to delay their shipments.

4.—Paragraph 2 of Section 4. The Committee strongly recommend the omission of this clause in its entirety. When in their letter of the 12th August, 1898, they suggested that "the Government should give its consideration to the formulation of some other scheme which will not only provide an effective check on the import of the drug, but will trace it also to consumption or exportation," they did not intend to convey the idea that the collection of the duties should be undertaken by the Government.

For the Government to undertake such a task would not only be unnecessary, but it would lead to troublesome complications and prove vexatious to the merchants. In illustration of this assertion, I may mention that much of the opium imported—although it may not be specifically stated on the bill of lading—is really shipped for optional delivery at Hongkong or Shanghai, and the consignees here, if they wish the shipment to be continued on to the latter port, notify the carriers and pay the difference in freight. This opium would of course be manifested for Hongkong and would have to be entered again in the Shanghai manifest. Besides these optional shipments there would be the usual local shipments to Shanghai. At that port the duty is paid by the native dealer and not by the importer, and then only when it goes into consumption locally. If the opium is required elsewhere, the dealer merely has to tranship it, and the consignee pays duty at port of destination. Supposing the duty to be payable here, the merchants would, instead of the native dealers, be called upon to pay on every chest shipped from this port or "continued" on in the steamer, and as opium frequently remains in storage for months and even occasionally for years, the amounts paid on this account would soon accumulate. Moreover, opium on which duty had been paid here might be lost on the passage. If the Government decided to enforce the payment of this duty, such action could not fail to divert a considerable portion of the trade from Hongkong. The Committee are of opinion that all that is necessary for the Government to do, to provide an effective check on the smuggling of opium, is to establish Bonded Warehouses for the storage of the drug, making use (as previously mentioned) of the opium merchant's godowns as far as possible, and to keep an account of all opium *actually discharged* in Hongkong, furnishing the representative of the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs with particulars of all permits issued for the export of opium.

5.—Paragraph 3 of Section 4. To require the weight of the opium to be specified appears to be needless seeing that the duty is charged by the Imperial Maritime Customs by the chest. I am also to point out that the name of the consignee cannot always be stated, as bills of lading are negotiable documents and are frequently made out to order.

6.—Section 5. The foregoing objections apply equally to the inclusion of the words "weight" and "name of consignee" in this section. I am further instructed to draw attention to the penalty—"imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months with or without hard labour"—to which it is proposed to subject masters of vessels for failure or omission to report arrival, which the committee consider to be unreasonable. Finally, I am to suggest the deletion of the concluding words of this section, viz.: "and such opium may be forfeited," as being irrational.—I have the honour to be, sir, Your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

REDUCTION OF CABLE RATES.

The following correspondence is attached to the minutes of the last monthly meeting of the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce:—

The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce,
Colombo, 21st June, 1899.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—I have the honour to forward a copy of a Resolution recently passed by this Chamber in connection with above, and to draw your attention to the necessity for combined action on the part of the Chambers of Commerce of the East in the matter.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. W. DUNN, Secretary.

(Copy of Resolution referred to.)

"That this Chamber considers the time has now arrived when the cost of cable messages between Great Britain and the East should be reduced, and they recommend that combined action be taken in conjunction with the Chambers in India, the Straits, and China, in order to accomplish it."

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 14th August, 1899.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st June, forwarding copy of a resolution recently passed by your Chamber in connection with the proposed reduction of cable rates between Great Britain and the East. This was carefully considered by my Committee, and at their meeting held on the 10th inst. some resolutions, copy of which is enclosed herein, were unanimously passed and will be forwarded to the Government for transmission to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Copies will also be sent to the Chambers of Commerce in the East.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

The Secretary, Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong 14th August, 1899.

Sir,—I am instructed to transmit to you copy of resolution on the subject of the reduction of telegraph rates from the East to Europe unanimously passed by the Committee of this chamber at their monthly meeting on the 10th inst., and to beg that his Excellency the Governor will be good enough to forward the same to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.—I have the honour to be sir your obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

DEATH OF MR. GRANVILLE SHARP.

We learn with regret that a telegram was received on Tuesday morning announcing the death of Mr. Granville Sharp. Mr. Sharp left in April last, as has been his practice during the last few years, in order to escape the Hongkong summer. He travelled by the Canadian Pacific route and booked through to New York, intending to spend the greater part of the summer in Canada and the United States, and being undecided as to whether he would go to England or not. A letter from him was received by the Canadian mail yesterday morning saying he was leaving Montreal, and as the telegram announcing his death is from Limpsfield Chart, Surrey, it is supposed that from New York he had proceeded to England, gone to visit Mr. H. W. Davis at Limpsfield Chart, and died shortly after his arrival there.

Mr. Sharp was a very old resident of Hongkong. He came out in the fifties as manager of the old Agra Bank, but left that institution a few years later and established himself as a bill and bullion broker, in which business he was very successful, and he gradually acquired large property interests. With the increased rates property now commands it is believed that his estate will be one of the largest ever valued for probate in Hongkong. The deceased gentleman took a prominent interest in local politics, and being a fluent and eloquent speaker he generally took a leading part at all important public gatherings. One of his latest appearances was at the meeting held at the City Hall to hear an address from Lord Charles Beresford in January last, when he proposed a vote of thanks to the distinguished visitor in particularly happy terms.

Mr. Sharp was a very keen business man, and in business had the reputation of driving hard bargains, but he was also very liberal in his charities, and many who have enjoyed his bounty will have good reason to mourn his death.

At Shanghai on the 10th August a hockey-polo match took place, and the novelty of the competition attracted a large concourse of spectators. The teams were Ross, Lasdale, G. Dallas, and A. W. Burkill, mounted, against the following six, namely, Teesdale, Chestnode, Ramsay, Byrne, A. E. Lanning, and [illegible] on foot. In the first half the horsemen scored one goal, but in the second the foot-men having learnt by experience that slogging the ball pay, went in for dribbling and were rewarded with two goals in less than five minutes. Then an unfortunate accident occurred, Mr. Lasdale's pony stepping upon the ball, breaking its fetlock bones, and having ultimately to be killed. The match thus ended in favour of the footmen by two goals to one.

COLLAPSE OF A BUILDING IN GRAHAM STREET.

ONE MAN KILLED AND FOUR INJURED.

The Synagogue, No. 55, Graham Street, now in course of demolition, collapsed at about a quarter-past eleven on Wednesday night, and a number of workmen who were sleeping in different rooms were buried beneath the debris. The roof gave way first, and it brought down with it part of the walls. Sergeant McHardy, Sergeant Findlay, and Sergeant Murchison were soon on the spot, and endeavoured to get some coolies to assist in extricating the men who were known to have been buried, but they were unsuccessful. Consequently they had to set to work themselves. A storm was raging at the time and this made their task all the more difficult. They succeeded, however, in getting nine men out. One was dead, four were so injured that they had to be taken to Hospital, and four were practically unhurt. At about seven o'clock on Thursday morning the assistance of some coolies was obtained, and throughout the day they were engaged in clearing away the rubbish and looking for any other bodies which might be covered up.

PROBATES AND ADMINISTRATIONS IN 1898.

The following is the calendar of probates and administrations granted by the Supreme Court of Hongkong during 1898, exclusive of Chinese estates under $1,000:—

Name of Testator or Intestate.	Value sworn under.
Adelino Eulalio Allemno —$	300
Lau Fu Shun — — — —	4,800
John David Humphreys— —	426,000
James Anthony Sampson —	500
Charles St. George Cleverly —	160,400
Li Chit alias Li King Chuen—	297,000
Chow A Chung alias Sun Chong	14,000
Tsang Mow alias Chang Mow	5,000
Lee Ah Sun alias Li U Nam alias Li Fun — — — —	3,000
Li Chan Shi — — — —	1,200
William Henderson MacKenzie	124,800
Wong Shek Chuen — — —	8,600
Pierri F. L. F. Koch — —	12,000
Edmund Sharp— — — —	1,153,300
Chen A Teak — — — —	1,000
William Waddilove— — —	10,100
Tong Mow Chee — — —	27,400
W. E. White — — — —	200
Lorenz Poesnecker — — —	50,700
Kwan Shing — — — —	8,000
Ip Cheong Chiu— — — —	2,600
John Odell— — — — —	6,030
Ngan Mah alias Ngan Man Tin	8,600
Edward Rose — — — —	500
William de St. Croix — —	3,100
Alfred Feltham— — — —	1,400
Wong Po — — — — —	5,300
Leung Mai Hing alias Leung Mi Yu alias Leung Yew Steung — — — — —	30,000
Lawford Rhodes Jaines — —	2,800
Camille M. C. Imbault Huart	2,900
Wan Yuk — — — — —	6,200
Charles Turner Carnie — —	15,082
Chong Oi Tong— — — —	1,000
Emilio Zeller — — — —	1,900
Ida Brockelmann — — —	31,000
Tang Chow Chung — — —	3,000
Sham A Kow — — — —	5,400
Kwok Ku Fui — — — —	1,600
Kwok Mui— — — — —	4,300
Ho Yunk Kin — — — —	4,000
Leung Kam alias Leung Yuen Kum — — — — —	4,000
Elizabeth Frances Higgins —	8,400
Hefrosina Esmeralda do Rozario	7,065
Leonardo Francisco Collaço —	400
Cora Augusta Rand Droppers	1,400
Tsang Yat Sing — — —	7,000
Herman Iwersen — — —	600
Antonio Joaquim de Mederio —	4,600
Jas. Jessen— — — — —	200
James Lucien Prosser — —	2,500
Wong Oi Chau — — — —	127,200
Ninian Crawford — — —	82,347
Catherine Marion Deacon —	17,000
Margaret Johnstone or Torbet	1,128
Ip Tuk Sin— — — — —	1,000
Chung Sz Yueng otherwise Chung Shi Yung — — —	20,500
John Carl Ludwig Bouch —	5,000
Li Hung — — — — —	1,000
Cheong A Hon — — — —	8,000
Maria Isabl d'Oliveira — —	3,500
Tsai Mi Ki— — — — —	1,100
William Henry Dixon — —	350
Chiu Chi Yeung — — —	2,900
Eulalia Rufina Pinheiro— —	700
Shiu Wa Iu alias Shiu Wa Siu	13,700
Wong Ngo Chuen — — —	4,600
Yeong A Tim — — — —	4,900
Mok Chong Po — — — —	39,900
Emma Gertrude Ireland— —	1,200
Joao de Matta Oziro — —	1,500
Francisco Xavier de Jesus —	300
Chua Po Shim — — — —	2,000
Hormasji-Rustamji Davar —	800
George Wright— — — —	300
William Stanley Stanley-Adams	318,718
Moritz Baar — — — —	1,062
Wong Ng Leung alias Wong Mun— — — — — —	4,000
Tsang Kun Kin — —	4,000
Laurent Roustan otherwise Firmin H. Laurent Roustan	48,900
William McClure — — —	400
Thomas Baxter Powell — —	2,000
James Allan — — — —	400
Ng Man alias Ng Sui Wan —	1,600
Demetria D'Araujo e Silva —	5,000
Delphine Mountfort alias Olga de Ruvigne — — — —	1,800
Wilford Christy — — —	515
John Robertson— — — —	200
Thomas C. Thorp — — —	100
Foo Fung Shi, alias Fung Shi	7,800
William Gauld — — — —	2,000
Cheang Yan — — — —	2,000
Leung Fung Hin — — —	8,600
Siu Yut Kai alias Min Hing—	16,000
Cheng Yee Kan alias Cheng Yik King alias Cheng Wai Hing	1,000
Guadalupe Rocha y de Icaza—	1,600
Maria Eliza d.Encarnacao —	1,500
Yeung Mui— — — — —	2,000
Tong Soy Che — — — —	334,600
Cheung To Tsun — — —	2,000
Joao Antonia da Luz — —	5,000
Alexander Stopani — — —	5,400
Wilhelm Matheson — — —	5
Werner Krohn— — — —	18,300
George Felix Muller — —	52,600
Hu Sing Nam — — — —	2,000
Andreas Jensen Wilgaard —	6,600
William Burrowes Russell —	400

THE UN LOONG MURDER.

COMMUTATION OF SENTENCES.

Our readers will remember that on the 4th inst. Ng Ki Cheung, Ng Tung, and Liu Tuk Lup were sentenced to death for the murder of Chan Kwai Tsui Tui at Un Loong on the 18th April. The jury recommended second prisoner to mercy on the ground that though present he took no active part in the proceedings, and consequently the Acting Chief Justice (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman) said he would forward the recommendation to the Governor and he had no doubt it would receive every consideration from His Excellency.

Since then the Governor in Council has granted the second prisoner a full pardon. The first prisoner has had his sentence commuted to imprisonment for life, and the third to ten years' imprisonment.

THE DISORDER IN KWANGTUNG.

ANOTHER STEAMER PIRATED.

THE SAICHIU DISTURBANCES.

A Canton correspondent writes:—

The steamer *Taksing* while on a voyage from Canton to Kutsun on the 15th inst. was attacked by pirates. She was off Titkong in the Tungkun district, when several snake boats came alongside and at the same time some forty pirates who had gone on board as passengers rose and pointed their revolvers at the other passengers to frighten them. They then ransacked the luggage and took all the money and valuables. A Chinese passenger who loved his money more than his life hesitated to surrender it whereupon one of the pirates brained him with the butt of his revolver. There was a European engineer on board, and he was wounded. A foreign lady passenger, married to a Chinamen, was amongst those who lost all their valuables. Having secured their booty the pirates cleared away.

On the 19th inst., between 2 and 3 a.m., a cocoon shop in Fatshan was robbed, about $8,000 in money and goods being taken away. About forty or fifty armed robbers broke open the door, terrrorised the inmates of the establishment, and quietly collected their booty and departed.

The Saichiu brigands have dispersed and are now raising disturbances in other districts. Only a few of them have been killed by the Imperial troops, and four or five men said to be chiefs, though their leadership is doubtful, have been captured. The Imperial troops worked great destruction in the villages, killing a number of innocent people and practising great cruelty. Children under five years of ago had their necks wrung and those over that age were put to the sword.

[The slaughter in the villages was probably in connection with the suppression of the clan fight between the Lo and Kwan clans, which affair was separate altogether from the brigand rebellion. The Lo clan fired on the troops sent to put an end to the fight, by mistake as they afterwards alleged, but General Liu Yung-fu did not accept the excuse and threatened to wipe out the Lo clan and utterly destroy their village and this threat he appears to have carried into execution.—Ed.]

THE ALLEGED SEIZURE OF SANCHAU BY THE FRENCH.

THE STATEMENT WITHDRAWN AND CONTRADICTED.

The Macao *Lusitano* of the 20th August says it was in error in stating in its preceding number that the French had occupied Sanchau. The remarks made by the *Daily Press* on the subject are translated and our contemporary proceeds:—

"It is possible that equal surprise may have been felt by other influential journals always watchful of what is passing and even of what is said in our modest weekly. The nearest point to Macao occupied by the French is, we believe, Kwangchowwan, and their presence there is known to all the world. The correction of the mistake does not in any way alter the viewexpressed in our article."

The article referred to advocated an extension of the boundaries of Macao, and the alleged proximity of the French at Sanchau was one the arguments advanced as showing the desirability of such extension.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held on Saturday in the City Hall. There were present Messrs. R. M. Gray (chairman), N. A. Siebs, F. Goetz, A. Haupt, R. H. Hill, Hon. J. J. Keswick, A. McConachie, A. J. Raymond, P. Sachse, E. Shellim (Directors); Sir Thos. Jackson (Chief Manager), Hon. C. P. Chater, H. N. Mody, G. Stewart, V. A. C. Hawkins, J. C. Peter, K. A. Chinoy, C. J. Consalves, P. A. Barlow, F. Henderson, G. M. Bain, Lau Wai Chuen, Shun Kau Sui, D. Gillies, C. May, E. S. Whealler, G. H. Wheeler, G. de Champeaux, A. Sharp, D. D. Guzdar, E. S. Joseph, S. A. Joseph, M. B. Polishwalla, J. Ezekiel, S. H. Michael, A. G. Stokes, G. C. Cox, J. R. Michael, Hart Buck, W. H. Bamsey, W. Lysaught, Captain Goddard, C. B. Rogge, G. H. Potts, E. Georg, J. H. Lewis, W. A. C. Cruickshank, W. H. Gaskell, E. Jones Hughes, R. T. Wright, E. D. Sanders, P. de C. Morriss, Ho Tung, Lo Cheung Shui, etc.

The CHIEF MANAGER read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, having read the report of the directors said—Gentlemen, the directors have the pleasure of coming before you with another excellent report, being able to recommend a dividend of £1 10, per share, place 10 lacs to reserve, making it up to $11,000,000 write $250,000 off property account, and carry forward $963,000 odd. (Applause.) Ten millions of the reserve are invested in gold securities, as stated in the Chirman's speech at the last meeting. In the present report we give a detail of said investments, viz:—You will notice that £250,000 of the 2½ per cent consols stand

at 95 and exchange of 2/6, say $1,900,000. When the reserve was being converted into sterling at exchange of 2/; we thought of writing down the price of the consols to 90 and exchange of 2/; but as that method would increase their cost in our books from 19 lacs to 22½ lacs of dollars, and as the special reserve had so long stood at 2/6 exchange and 95, we decided to let the entry remain as it has stood for a number of years. The remainder of our 2½ per cent. consols, say £522,500, we have written down to 90, say £470,250; they are converted into dollars at exchange of 2/, say $4,702,500. The remaining item in the investments account, £347,000, which is described as "Other Sterling Securities" consists of Indian sterling loans and railway debenture bonds, colonial stocks and bonds, Greek guaranteed loan, and London County Council bonds. They stand in our books at what they cost, say £339,750, converted into dollars at exchange of 2/, say $3,397,500. I enter into the foregoing explanation as our consols being in our books at different rates might be puzzling to some of our friends. The placing of 10 lacs to the reserve fund, making it just that amount larger than the paid-up capital, marks an epoch in the history of the bank, and will, I hope, meet with the approval of our shareholders and well wishers. Our business is now so extensive, and divided over so many places, that a large reserve in addition to our paid-up capital is of the utmost importance for our future well-being. A bank wants three things, viz :—Good character, good management, and solid resources of its own. In the absence of any one of these, pronounced success would be impossible. (Applause.) Our proposal to write $250,000 off property account will, if approved of, reduce the amount at which the whole of the Bank's properties stands in our books to $71,610.05. You are aware that our object is as far as possible to eliminate all non-interest bearing accounts out of our books. Our properties originally cost $2,151,000, and are now worth a sum largely in excess of that amount: some of them now require extensive alterations and others reconstruction to make them suitable for present requirements. There are many ports where we still rent offices, and where it would be desirable to purchase land as favourable opportunities offer and to erect premises of our own. This is our aim, and the present satisfactory state of the Bank premises account places us in a good position to realize it. (Applause) Our note circulation is $3,622,695 in excess of our authorized issue of 10 millions; against said excess we have lodged with the Hongkong Government $5,00 ,00 0, leaving us a margin for the further issue of notes to the extent of $1,377,305 against the coin already deposited. The Hongkong Government has recently extended the privilege we at present enjoy, of issuing notes in excess of the amount of our paid-up capital against a deposit of coin, for a further period of twelve months, expiring at the end of July 1 00. The Straits Government is gradually getting its notes into circulation. In time, we will be able to make available for Hongkong the amount of our note circulation hitherto set apart for the Straits Settlements. Our current accounts and fixed deposits in silver show a small increase compared with the previous six months, say together $92,750,219.18 against $87,943,573.21 on the 21st December. Our current accounts and fixed deposits in gold also show an increase of £1,651,451.14s.2d. accounted for by the considerable amount of Chinese Government funds we then had in our possession; for a similar reason our cash balance in unusually large. Bills payable show a small decrease and bills receivable a small increase. On the last occasion on which we met here, my predecessor stated that we had participated in the floating of a Chinese loan for £2,300,000. Since then we have participated in the floating of a Japanese loan. The moderate profits we realized on both transactions will come into the half-year's accounts to the 31st December. (Applause.) The China question still keeps prominently before the world, and is likely to do so for years. The great trading nations want a prosperous China and equality of opportunity in commerce. I sincerely hope that such may turn out to be the end of all the rivalries of recent years. The Indian Currency Commission has, after lengthy investigation, decided upon a gold standard, fixing the exchange at 1/4 per rupee. Whatever the policy of the Government of India may be with regard to currency, the people of India will continue to use silver. It is their money, and commodities will be measured in it for many a day to come. Although we have not any artificial expedients for equalizing rates in China, our exchange has recently been almost as steady as that of India. Such a state of things affords very little chance for making large profits in exchange. Brilliant as are the results which we now place before you, and as they have been recently, I think it only right to point out that as far as we can see it will be an impossibility to continue them upon the same scale in the future. Ordinary exchange banking, with finely-cut margins, can only yield moderate profits. We can congratulate ourselves that while the opportunity for making extraordinary profits lasted we took full advantage of it, and placed the Bank in a position of immense strength and security. Another thing, gentlemen, we have recently had an almost complete immunity from losses. It is hardly necessary for me to remind you that this happy result is due to the thoughtful care and ability exercised by our Chief Manager,—(applause)—ably seconded by the Managers at our various branches and the staff generally,—(applause)—and so long as our interests are in such good hands we may feel confident that whatever the difficulties may be in the future, the Bank, under such able management, is in an excellent position to come well through them. (Applause.) While touching upon this point, I would add that the directors feel sure that the shareholders will unite with them in congratulating Sir Thomas Jackson on the recent well-deserved honour conferred on him by Her Majesty, showing that his services have been recognised in a wider sphere than our own immediate circle. (Applause.) Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be happy to answer any questions which any shareholders may desire to put.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed that the report and accounts be adopted.

Mr. E. S. WHEALLER said—Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in seconding the proposal. The results before us are, as our Chairman says, brilliant. In your remarks, Sir, you said three things were needed for the Bank's success. Good character and good management the accounts show that we must possess, and I think they show, too, that we have solid resources of our own, built up very largely from undivided profits or reserve fund, and I am sure that you will all agree with me in cordially approving the continued building up of that source of strength—a continuance of the policy which has brought the Bank to its present proud position and given it the strength which, coupled with good management, enables us to feel assured of steady dividends and an occasional bonus. It is not only as shareholders in the Bank that we are interested in its strength and well being. The prosperity or adversity of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is a matter of vital importance to every foreigner residing in or having trade with the Far East. No serious adversity could befall this Bank without affecting a much larger circle than those who are shareholders in it—therefore the prosperity of the Bank is a matter of public importance, so that the thanks of the public as well as of us shareholders are due to the management, and Her Majesty has recognised this by the honor she has gratified us by conferring on our Chief Manager. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was carried.

Mr. G. H. WHEELER proposed confirmation of the appointment of the Hon. J. J. Keswick and Messrs. E. Goetz and E. Shellim to the Directorate.

Mr. LEWIS seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. GILLIES—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I think we should be ungrateful indeed if we passed in silence the very efficient and able services that have been rendered by the Board of Directors and the state of the Bank during the past half-year. I have, therefore, very much pleasure in proposing vote of thanks to them for the very excellent report that they have submitted to us on this occasion. I think, gentlemen, that notwithstanding the very keen competition that exists all over the world, particularly in the Far East, with regard to financial matters, this Bank, through the able direction and efficient management, has been able to fill the position that we all hoped for it, and I trust that you will long be able to retain that foremost position in financial matters in the East. (Hear, hear.) I would also ask you most particularly accord a very hearty vote of thanks to the staff. Through their earnest and able efforts we have received during the past half-year's report that has been rarely, very rarely indeed excelled by any European bank—(applause), and I think that we are very greatly indebted to them for the efforts that they have made in the interests of shareholders. I think that no one has worked harder or done more in the interests of the Bank than our very honourable chief. (Applause.) You all know what he has done for the Bank better than I can tell you gentlemen, and I trust that he will be long spared to wear his laurels in honour and with dignity. I have much pleasure in proposing a cordial vote of thanks to the Board of Directors and the staff of the Bank.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Gillies and gentlemen, on behalf of the directors, chief manager and staff generally, I thank you most heartily for your cordial vote of thanks. There being no further business before the meeting I have to thank you for your attendance to-day. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

On Monday afternoon the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Limited, was held at the offices, Queen's Buildings. Mr. E. S. Whealler occupied the chair, and there were also present the Hon. J. J. Keswick, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, J. H. Lewis, A. Haupt, E. Goetz, J. S. Van Buren (directors), D. Gillies (chief manager), T. I. Rose (Secretary), G. Murray Bain, J. R. Michael, S. H. Michael, D. Haskell, H. Dann, D. Jones, H. Wickham, F. Henderson, J. Thurburn, Hart Peck, J. Jupp, C. W. Dickson, Ho Tung, and Lo Cheung Shiu.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission we will take the report and accounts as read. We have had an extraordinarily prosperous half year, one in which we have had a large amount of the most profitable description of work, and the result is that our profit is most exceptionally large. I desire to point out that these profits must be looked upon as something quite exceptional. They are by far the largest in the history of the company and such results can only be attained under exceptional circumstances. Ordinarily we cannot expect to be able to lay such results before you. However, they show the capacity for money making that our establishments possess if only the necessary quantity of work of the right description is forthcoming. Further than this, gentlemen, they justify the sacrifices you have made in the past in adding to and improving your works out of profits so that they are now second to none in this part of the world, and are not encumbered with a capital on which, in ordinary times, we could look for but a modest return. The profits enable us to recommend a dividend of 8 per cent. and a bonus of 12 per cent. be paid to shareholders, a bonus of $20,000 to contributing shareholders, place $100,000 to reserve, write off from Kowloon and Cosmopolitan Docks and steam launches $89,318.11, and carry forward $365,804.42. The amount carried forward is somewhat large, but I must remind you that we have a very large expenditure to meet in the reconstruction of our workshops, and in additions to, and replacing of, our machinery and tools by those of the most modern description, and out of the amount carried forward your directors propose, as I think I admit, to place on deposit with the Hongkong Bank in London a sum sufficient to cover the balance of our indebtedness to the Admiralty. Within a comparatively few years the size and weight of vessels and their machinery has so enormously increased, that tools and machinery which were formerly sufficient, are now quite inadequate, and in order to maintain our position it is absolutely necessary that our shops and machinery be kept will up to date. The shops that are now will, building we hope, fulfil the purpose

[illegible] which they are being erected for many years [illegible] but with regard to the machinery the [illegible] are in an ever-receding one in replac[illegible] of-date machines with those of the most [illegible] description, which enable work to be [illegible] with the greatest economy, efficiency, and [illegible]. The new pumps for No. 2 Kowloon [illegible] are in place and will shortly be running, when we hope to reduce by more than one half the time taken to pump out this dock, which means that the earning power of it will be materially increased. The new blacksmith shop at Kowloon has been completed and lately occupied with great advantage to our work. A [illegible] fitting and machine shop, 60 feet wide, 225 feet long, and 60 feet high, will shortly be commenced. The increased accommodation which this shop will afford is a pressing necessity. The lengthening of No. 1 Dock at Kowloon is well advanced and we hope before long to be in a position to take into this dock vessels of 576 feet on the blocks. The decision of the Admiralty to build a dock of their own in Hongkong does not remove our need for another and larger dock, to which reference was made at our last annual meeting, but it may be some little time before the directors will be in a position to submit their proposals to shareholders. As you are doubtless aware, a fire broke out in one of the stores at Kowloon on the evening of the 10th instant, but I am glad to say the damage is not very serious and will interfere but little with our business. Our loss is covered by insurance. To our staff, from the Chief Manager downwards, we are largely indebted for our continued prosperity; they had a very busy half-year and I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the ability and zeal they have displayed. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. THURBURN—I beg to second that, and I have much pleasure in doing so. It is the best report the Company have ever had, and the shareholders ought to be satisfied with it. We are now reaping the benefit of the policy pursued in paying for the improvements and additions out of the profits of the Company instead of increasing the capital. The Dock Company have got a very high reputation for first-class work. I have always heard naval officers for instance remark on the excellence of the work. I have no doubt a great deal of our prosperity is due to this fact, and the chief credit for this is due to our management.

The motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I am obliged for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, was held at noon on Monday. Mr. W. Parfitt occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, E. Osborne, (directors), C. Mooney (Secretary), J. H. Lewis, W. Hatton Potts, E. Georg, F. D. Goddard, G. C. Cox, J. Y. V. Vernon, W. H. Gaskell, A. A. Guteirres, J. E. Gomes, J. C. Peter, G. Stewart, F. Henderson, W. Newton, R. T. Wright, J. J Monteiro, E. M. Roberts, J. R. Michael, D. Macdonald, Ho Tung, Lo Chung Shui, and others.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, as the report and accounts have now been in your hands for some days I will, with your permission, consider them as read. Since the last half-yearly meeting of shareholders the capital has been increased by the sum of $156,050, and it now stands at the full amount authorised by the Articles of Association, viz., $500,000. Mortgage debentures to the extent of $500,000 have been issued, of which the Company holds $275,000 worth. These two operations have enabled the Company to pay off the loan of $500,000 to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The loan was a temporary one and might have been called in at very short notice, perhaps at a time when it might not have been possible for the Hotel Company to borrow at 6 per cent. The asset of $275,000 represented by the 550 Hongkong Hotel Company's debentures held by the Company is of a liquid nature, as the debentures could, without doubt, be easily sold at any time, and one of the objects of the directors in issuing 1,000 mortgage debentures and holding more than half for the Company was to have funds in readiness should it be considered advisable, later on, to build on the Company's portion of the Praya Reclamation. The first floor of the old building, which has for some years past been let out as offices, has been fitted up with bed room accommodation and 14 rooms gained thereby. The directors have reason to believe that these rooms will show a better return if let to visitors to the Hotel than they did as offices. The prospects for the current half year are so far good, I am glad to say, but it is somewhat early to speculate on the profits of a business subject to such vicisitudes as that of the Hongkong Hotel Co. If any gentleman has any questions to ask I shall be pleased to answer them to the best of my ablity.

There being was no questions, the CHAIRMEN proposed the adoption of the report.

Mr. HO TUNG—I have much pleasure in seconding that proposal, and I should like to remark that I am sure the shareholders will agree with me that the results of the past half-year's working must be very gratifying. I believe I am not mistaken when I say that the profits are the best ever recorded in the annals of this Company. It is but a few years ago that we shareholders came here and met with gloomy faces when no dividend was to be declared and a large debit balance to be carried forwarded to the next meeting. To-day the Company is in a very much sounder position. Not only have we set aside six per cent. of a dividend and wiped of $15,000 for furniture and fixtures and $10,000 for repairs and renewals, but we have put $15,000 to the reserve fund, making it a round sum of $30,000, and carried forward a very handsome amount. I think the shareholders will agree with me that the directors have acted very prudently in setting money aside in this manner. Personally I believe the prospects of the Company are very bright. Taking into consideration the coming development of the Philippines under the enlightened American Government and the gradual but steady opening up of the interior of China, more people from all over the world are sure to be attracted to Hongkong and this company is sure to reap its full benefit. Gentlemen, with these few remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. LEWIS, seconded by Captain GODDARD, Messrs. E. Osborne and W. Parfitt were re-elected directors.

On the motion of Mr. NEWTON, seconded by Mr. GOMES, Messrs. Potts and Gaskell were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—I have to thank you for your attendance, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be issued on application this afternoon.

Captain GODDARD—I beg to propose a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Directors and manager and staff of the Company. It is a very good report we have had from them for the past half year. I hope the Directors' thoughts that we shall have at least as good a dividend during the next half year will prove to be true. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—I thank you, Captain Goddard and gentlemen, on behalf of the Directors, manager, and staff for your very kind vote of thanks.

PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for July received from Mr. Railey, the manager at the mines:—

TANKONG.

Adit levels.—A very little ore was mined from here, ample being got from the lower levels to keep the concentrating capacity of the mill running full time.

Level No. 1. (50 feet level.) Crosscut No. 1.—Driven 1 foot, making a total of 196 feet, and discontinued.

North Drive from Crosscut No. 1.—Driven northerly 48 feet on good ore most of the way, varying from about 2 feet to about 10 feet in thickness.

Stope No. 1 was opened from this drive, here, and yielded some good ore. The ore deposits as developed by this stope were about the same size as those out in the drive, and in both places irregular and unsteady.

South Drive from Crosscut No.—Driven one foot, making a total of 88 feet, and discontinued.

Stope No. 2 was opened from this drive at crosscut No. 1, and yielded some very fair ore. This is the point at which Lode No. 2 was first cut and good ore passed through. This stope is is not yet extended enough to prove how large a deposit of such ore there is at this place.

Crosscut from South Drive from Crosscut No. 1 was started and driven four feet on Lode No. 2, when it was stopped because of heavy ground, and another crosscut started to develope that lode at the same point started in the hanging wall, and driven 3½ feet and discontinued. Some ore was developed thereby but proved of low grade.

Crosscut No., 2 Westerly.—Driven six feet, making a total of 46 feet, and discontinued.

Level No. 2. (100 foot level). South drive from Crosscut No. 1.—Driven 22 feet, making a total of 41 feet from Crosscut on the lode. It continues fairly well defined, and of low grade.

North drive from crosscut No. 1.—Driven 14 feet on the lode, making a total of 30½ feet, when it was discontinued temporarily because of the ground being very bad to handle, and to facilitate starting an uprise from this drive. The lode showed well where the last work was done, having widened out to some five feet in thickness, the last samples assaying over an ounce fine gold per ton.

North-west drive from shaft.—This is the drive mentioned as the northerly drive in March report. It was extended 24 feet. Some ore in a lode like formation was cut which proved of low grade and was not developed further as yet; otherwise this drive was through country rock.

Uprise No. 1.—This was started from crosscut No. 1, on the lode cut therein, and put up 11 feet thereon. The lode is varying in size and character, being from one and a half to three feet thick and of fair grade only.

Footwall crosscut was driven 3 ft. 6 in. from south drive from crosscut No. 1, to prove if we had all of the lode there or not in the main drive. Nothing but country wall rock being cut therein, proved we had.

Product.—Everything taken out from this level except the rock from Northwest drive from shaft and foot wall crosscut was or will be sent to the mill to be treated.

Shaft.—Sinking this was resumed and 6 feet 6 inches sunk. This is and will be slow work because of the water the mine makes and of the considerable work being done at levels Nos. 1 and 2 for the small shaft and light equipment we have at this place.

SWAH.

No. 3 Adit level. (formerly, No. 3 cutting.)—Driven 76 feet making a total of 190 feet. This is being driven to prove the hill, at the foot of which there are extensive ancient or native workings, and some very fair grade gold-bearing ore to be found yet. Considerable other prospecting development work was done here, but no permanent reef or lode of value found.

GUBAU.

Level No. 1 North drive.—This was discontinued, the lode or vein therein appearing of very little promise, and by so doing drive South at this level could be expedited.

South drive.—Driven 115 feet making a total of 142 feet from crosscut. This was driven all the way on the lode or vien which is very well defined from 8 to 15 inches in thickness, sometimes solid quarts and at others of a rubbly nature, assaying a few pennyweights per ton.

PREAN.

Shaft (No. 4 East workings).—This was sunk to a depth of 15 feet when work had to be abandoned on account of water, but it will be prosecuted further as soon as practicable. An exceedingly well defined lode about 15 inches thick was developed here, the best defined by far of any lode I have seen in this vicinity.

The last sample from the bottom of this shaft assayed, as heretofore advised, 1 oz. 1 dwt. 14 grs fine gold per ton.

REDUCTION WORKS.

Part of our 22 stamps were run on headings and part and concentrator on Tankong ore, equivalent to 29 days 5 hours, treating ore and yielding product as follows:—

Ore.	Tons.	Amalgam ozs.	Bullion ozs.	Concentrates. Tons.	Assay value per ton £ s.	dwts.	g.	s.
Headings	1,744.5	399.80	152.6.3	0	—	—	—	—
Tankong	386.0	69.70	26.6.2	22	4	11	5½	
Total	2,130.5	469.50	179.2.5	22				

126.5 tons of Tankong ore treated was from Lode No. 2 at Level No. 2 and the balance from sundry places in the mine, principally from Stope No. 1, Level No. 1.

Cyanide works.—These were operated a small part of the month when operations were suspended indefinitely. The final clean up was not finished but will be very little.

GENERAL.

Labour.—The supply of Chinese coolies for mining work is not very plentiful on account principally of the high price of tin attracting them to tin mining.

Water Power.—The rainfall was insufficient to give us water enough for power but part of the month, hence steam auxilliary power was required to be used in the mill part time.

Some work was done towards strengthening the dam and ditch from it to the water wheel at the mill.

Survey.—Making final permanent survey of the territory owned by this Company was begun.

Health.—Generally very fair, except in the Northern, or Bukit Sarong section, where a little sickness prevails.

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son inform us that in letters they have received from Mr. J. Whear Roberts, Consulting Engineer to Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, dated 28th July and 2nd August, he writes as follows:—

I am here making my usual inspection of the mines and advising the management on points on which they have asked for my opinion.

It gives me very great pleasure to report that the new reef at the southern end of the mine still continues to open up well. We have now driven about 110 feet since we first got on to payable stone, on the south side of the cross course, and except for a blank of about 8 feet "where the reef pinched" the whole of this distance has been in ore of first grade, as has been demonstrated by the special crushings which we have had from this point. In the face of the drive to-day the lode is nearly four feet wide of solid quartz. I broke out a sample across the whole face and on assay this returned 23½ dwts. per ton. At the point where the good ore was first met with a rise and stopes have been started, the rise is now up about 35 feet or within 15 feet of the 150 feet level. As advised in last report, we let a contract to extend the 150 feet level to take up this new shoot of stone. The contractors are making splendid progress, the cross course has been passed through, and the drive is now within about 15 feet from the top of the rise. In that distance we ought to get on to the run of stone. At the first intermediate below the 200 feet level, three shifts of men are at work extending the south drive with a view to picking up the same run of stone. There is a small seam of quartz in this drive which assays fairly well and may be regarded as an encouraging indication. The lode has been very strong under foot all the way at the 200 feet level and when we intersect it at the first intermediate there will be no difficulty in working the mine so as to keep the 20 stampers going. I am pleased with the prospects at this end of the mine and I fully anticipate that within a couple of months I shall be in a position to make strong recommendations having in view improved methods of working the mine and treating the ore.

A very serious difficulty is threatening with regard to sludge from the battery. The sludge dam is now in full height of the embankment of the reservoir, and to prevent the sludge flowing down the creek I have given Mr. Moore instructions to put up another embankment lower down. This will only be a small affair for the present pending determination as to other methods of treating the ore.—Yours faithfully,

J WHEAR ROBERTS.

2nd August, 1899.

In my report written at Mount Macdonald on the 27th ulto. I stated that within a few feet we ought to reach the new reef in the 150 feet level south. My anticipation has been realised, and, what is of more importance, the manager advises (as per report which will be forwarded you by this mail) that there is a large body of stone which appears to be of excellent quality, the first sample broken showing a value by dish prospects of 30 dwts. per ton, assay 2 ozs. 18 dwts. 19 grains. This is a distinct improvement on the quality of the reef where it was first met with in the 200 feet level, where for some distance it was comparatively poor. This is unquestionably the best defined body of quartz that has been discovered at the Mount, and it is the most consistent in quality, as shown by the average returns extending over some weeks' crushing. The average return for the past month from ore from this part of the mine was 1 oz. 1 dwt. 12 grs. per ton, only a trifle lower than that of the previous month when a small quantity was treated. The general return for the month is most gratifying. I can suggest no reason why this new reef should not be traced right up to the surface. As has been previously explained, the ground at this point is intact to the surface excepting a shallow shaft somewhere about the present end of the 200 feet level from which I am informed good prospects were obtained many years ago.

The rise from 200 feet will probably be connected with the 150 feet level this week. We shall then be able to start stoping systematically and soon be in a position to keep the mill going from this point.

I am forwarding instructions to the manager to keep the rise going over the 150 feet level with three shifts of men.

The first intermediate level south is being pushed on as fast as possible.

Within the current month we should reach the new lode here. A machine drill will be used to expedite this work.

Only one drill has been delivered so far. As soon as the others are to hand work in the 300 feet level south will be resumed.

The position of the Calcite cross-course at the 150 feet level shows that we were wrong in our former calculations as to its angle of inclination. We assumed from what was to be seen at 200 feet that it inclined to the west, but as disclosed between the two levels it is almost vertical, the inclination, if any, being to the east. This means that we shall have to drive further at 300 feet than we anticipated. I am not sorry for this as it will take us well away from the huge poor formation which has caused so much disappointment.

I am sure that you will feel, as we all do here, that it is a matter for congratulation to contemplate the excellent prospect that now appears before us.—Yours faithfully.

J. WHEAR ROBERTS.

THE HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

Seventeen members took part in the Competition for the Short Range Cup and Spoons on Saturday, when Sert. Major Wallace R.E., registered his second win for the Cup. The weather was fine and bright. Following are the best scores:—

	200.	300.	H'cap.	Total.
* Segt.-Major Wallace, R.E.	46	45	—	91
* Col.-Segt. Jones, R.W.F	43	42	6	90
* Mr. Helton	47	43	—	90
* Mr. Toller	43	43	4	90
Sapper Clarke, R.E.	45	44	—	89
Ar. Sergt. Blair	47	42	—	89
Mr. Diggins	41	42	2	85
Mr. Read	42	39	4	85
Col. Sergt. Ruscor, R.W.F.	44	40	—	84
Sert. Pond, R.W.F.	45	39	—	84
Corpt. Hills, R.E.	44	39	—	83

* Winners of Spoons.

With reference to Reuter's telegram about the outbreak of plague in Portugal, Mr. A. G. Romano, Portuguese Consul-General, has been informed that it has only broken out in the City of Oporto and that the Government are employing all means to stamp it out.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

A SHIP-BRAKE FOR OCEAN LINERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Although Mr. A. W. Best, and the Croatian of Hungary, have patented their ship-brake and are the first in the field, I don't think they were the first persons to have conceived the idea, as I was well acquainted with the theory as far back as 1894, when I was interested in flying ships and their propulsion in the air by means of propellers. Flying ships can be propelled by single or double stern propellers and kept balanced in the air, by deck-mast propellers, which enable them to ascend and descend, but in my opinion they cannot be satisfactorily steered by the same propellers when flying through the air. In looking through illustrations of flying ships, real and ideal, I was struck, at the time, by the total absence of proper steering gear and it struck me that without steering gear the vessel would be useless in commerce and warfare. I at once thought of the simple device of concealed wings (metal) which could be ejected from both sides of the vessel at will by means of electricty, etc. The ejection of the right wing, for example, while the ship is careering through the air, would turn the vessel to the right, and the angle could be regulated by the degree of its projection, and *vice versa*. The ejection of both wings simultaneously would act as a break and arrest the vessel to come to a stationary position in the air.

From flying ships I thought of steamers and came to the conclusion that the theory was applicable in every sense by utilising, instead of wings, collapsable iron screens or buckets to be run out from the sides of the steamer by a davit arrangement. I did not dare to think of patenting such a device, as I thought of the practical difficulties in the way, and knew it would have been a most difficult task to convince my friends of its utility and advise them to take it up, and again I was under the conviction that others had already taken advantage of the theory.

I am glad to see Mr. Best has been successful in patenting his invention in England, and trust it will turn out a financial success. But if, or the other hand, he should be disappointed, he can rest contented that his work will benefit mankind by minimising the chances of collision at sea, thereby preventing the deplorable loss of life so frequently recorded by papers from all parts of the world.—Your truly,

TSE TSAN-TAI.

Hongkong, 18th August, 1899.

THE SUNON MAGISTRATE AND LAUNCH TRAFFIC TO NAMTOW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir—It may not be generally known that the Sunon Magistrate has posted up at Capsuimoon, or caused to be posted up, a proclamation forbidding launches to carry passengers to Namtow City, in fact forbidding them to proceed there unless towing Namtow junks. At first blush this seems as if the Sunon Magistrate (Yuen) was within his rights, but the effect is to nullify all launch traffic between Hongkong and the new boundary. Some people are asking by what right this official posts proclamations in British territory. With the usual apologies, I remain, yours truly,

INTERESTED.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1899.

FUMELESSITE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Referring to the paragraph in your issue of to-day on a new explosive called "fumelessite," permit me to say that judging from its chemical composition (nitrate of potassium and ammonium, sulphur, wood meal, and oxide of iron) I recognise in it an old acquaintance. In the spring of 1887 my friend Dr. S. Rideal, F.I.C., F.C.S., and myself were asked by a city firm to examine and to report on a new explosive, for which its inventor claimed the following advantages: smokelessness, flamelessness, freedom from obnoxious vapours after

explosion, and superiority over dynamite in distruptive power. The inventor stated that his explosive had been largely and successfully taken up in Australian and Indian mines and felt very hopeful that his invention would revolutionise the entire practice of blasting. A disused quarry near Leicester was placed at our disposal for the purpose of our experiments. Our statement that all parts of the quarry were in such an unsound condition that they could easily be shattered with small charges of ordinary gunpowder and that therefore we would not be able to arrive at a proper estimate of the new explosive's blasting power were conveniently overruled by the inventor and the representative of his financial supporters. We commenced our experiments, and speedily demonstrated to our complete satisfaction that the explosive did not possess a single one of the valuable properties claimed for it by its inventor. Nor could it very well, as showed a glance at its composition, which was identical with that of "fumelessite." From a chemical point of view the explosive was nothing else but a slightly modified gunpowder diluted with such inert material as oxide of iron, and the presence of sulphur in it excluded the possibility of its being smokeless or non-productive of noxious vapours. However, it proved a difficult matter to kill the inventor's and his supporters' belief on their explosive, and even after they had admitted that it was neither smokeless nor more powerful than dynamite, nor fumeless, they still stuck to its at least being flameless and therefore pre-eminently suitable for work in coal mines. They either would not or could not see the flame which appeared each time the explosive was fired in an atmosphere of coaldust.

As a last endeavour to convince them we decided to explode a charge at night in a borehole tamped with coal dust. We did so and were compensated for our trouble by the sight of a beautiful bonfire which accompanied the explosion. The claim for flamelessness was thus effectively exploded and the inventor and his supporter were at last convinced. Rideal and myself did not stop to listen to the volley of uncomplimentory remarks let off at the head of the discomfited inventor by the representative of the city firm and by dint of hard driving managed to catch the night express to town.—I enclose my card and and remain, Sir, Yours truly

S G. R.

Hongkong, 19th August, 1899.

ELECTRICAL TRACTION ON THE OVERHEAD SYSTEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Whilst the air is thickly charged with the rumour of an electric tramway in Hongkong it may not be out of place to bring before the notice of the public some of the advantages of electrical over horse traction enumerated by the Managing Director of the Bombay Tramway Company in a letter addressed to the Municipal Commissioner of Bombay:—

(1)—Increased regularity, speed, and comfort of car service.

(2)—Much reduced congestion of traffic in the streets, the space occupied by the horses being saved.

(3)—Increased cleanliness of the streets.

(4)—Greater safety, owing to the cars being under more perfect mechanical control, and being fitted with more efficient tenders or wheel guards than is possible with horse cars.

(5)—Greater flexibility as a motive-power, and consequently increased capacity to meet the demands of a fluctuating traffic (such as exists in Bombay).

These are some of the superiorities which electrical tramway traction by the overhead system has been proved to possess, with the result that wherever it has been introduced, its popularity with all classes has become rapidly and firmly established.

But perhaps the greatest advantage accruing from the adoption of electrical traction is the facility it affords of extending the tramway into suburban districts, extensions which would be impossible under horse-traction in consequence of the slow rate of speed, the frequent horse changes, and other obstacles to its successful operation for long distance traffic. Wherever electrical lines have been introduced they have powerfully conduced to the suburban expansion of cities and therefore to the healthier and cheaper housing of the people. It is obviously impossible for many classes of the population to live at any distance from their work unless they are provided with frequent, rapid, and economical means of transit.

Hongkong certainly is in urgent need of some sort of efficient and cheap locomotion and an electric tramway will answer the purpose admirably well; and it will be to all appearances a success from a financial point of view as well. If the promoters are doubtful of success let the Government step in and grant a small subsidy under certain restrictions in the event of its proving an unprofitable speculation. Without question, it will prevent over-crowding to a degree which is the order of the day in the colony. The central portion has become a bee-hive of congestion. Rentals, not only of well-built, substantial, and costly structures (for in their case there is some justification), but of tatterdemalion and jerry tenements have gone up to an abnormal pitch. Overcrowding renders sanitary reforms hard to be introduced and inflicts permanent injury on the colony in more ways than one.

A propos of this subject, it will not be out of place to mention that it is a matter of surprise, thickly populated as the central portion is, that our Government do not take any measures to remove from under our very noses innumerable houses of ill fame that have sprung up in our midst, the moral ulcers and scars of the colony, to a distant and secluded locality.—Yours truly,

R. M. MEHTA.

Hongkong, 21st August, 1898.

DISORDERLY HOUSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—We beg to inform you of the facts concerning sly brothels in this Colony, and hope you will endeavour your utmost to suppress this social evil. The evil should be suppressed at any cost, even at the cost of Government revenue and the handsome rental incomes of landlords drived from increased rents due to the flooding of the colony by these establishments. We are certain the wealthy landlords would not pocket their rents with such pure consciences if they knew where they came from. We need not refer to the miserable house sharks who farm out the houses and then double the rents. The law should deal with these men and they should be held responsible for the prevalence of sly brothels in their districts. Sly brothels pay them willingly, and they are not ashamed to rake in the dollars, as their business is to make as much as possible while the sun shines. The law should forbid landlords to farm their houses as it leads to disgraceful abuses.

The closing up of houses as punishment for breaking the new law is no safeguard, because the same houses can be occupied for the same purposes immediately after they have been released. Besides, it encourages conspiracy and bribery and helps to demoralise the police and detective forces of the Colony. And again it must be remembered that decent Chinese dislike to face the Police Magistrate, and consequently will never report a sly brothel case unless their homes, characters, or reputations are threatened. Respectable Chinese loathe to have their names connected with sly brothel cases.

The remedy is a heavy fine. Owners of property can safeguard themselves by specially instructing their rent collectors to make enquiries from the respectable tenants occupying the various flats, who are always too willing to furnish any information which would lead to the expulsion of disreputable women. The rent collectors have ears to hear and eyes to see! It is a simple matter for the rent collectors to find out whether a sly brothel exists or not. How do the frequenters of such places find out?

The evils and injurious effects of sly brothels are:—(1) Society is scandalously disturbed. (2) Rents are raised through the monopolising of the best streets of the city by sly brothels, and respectable families are forced to leave the colony or live in dark and unhealthy lanes and alleyways. The respectable Chinese families are driven out of the healthy and popular streets of the city as if by a pestilential wind. (3.) Young men and young women are demoralised by their evil and boisterous surroundings. They are enticed and often led astray and ruined. (4.) Clerks, accountants, boys, coolies, etc., are enticed, led astray, and ruined. The secret pleasures and enjoyments of these demoralising places make them forget their duty to their masters and employers, and they are tempted to embezzle and gamble in order to buy the favour of their mistress or to continue their giddy life. (5.) Most of the houses on the best streets of the colony, Queen's Road Central and the high levels excepted, are, at present, occupied by public and sly brothels of various nationalities, and being in such close contact with the business shops of the colony it is easy to guess the deplorable results. (6.) This state of affairs is highly injurious to the property of the business people of the colony. (7.) The easy and secret way of earning money through sly brothels is so alluring that hundreds of ignorant but respectable country women from the mainland, and even women from wealthy families, have been enticed to the colony to earn the filthy lucre.

It makes one shudder to think of the pernicious and demoralising effects of the present condition of affairs in this colony.—Yours gratefully,

THE CHINESE COMMUNITY.

Hongkong, 22nd August, 1899.

LOSS OF THE BARQUE "KITTY."

THE CAPTAIN AND HIS WIFE AND FAMILY DROWNED.

The British barque *Kitty*, owned by Messrs. Hopkins, Dunn & Co., of Shanghai, and bound from Newchwang to Amoy with beancake foundered about 3 a.m. on Monday 7th August, during the recent typhoon some thirty miles north-east of Amoy. The master, Captain James Maher, a well-known coaster, carried his wife and two children. The crew consisted of a foreign mate and nineteen Chinese, and of the ship's company only the boatswain and nine hands are saved. The boatswain's statement of the loss of the *Kitty* is that on the morning of the 5th they encountered very bad weather when some eighty *li* from Amoy, and expecting a typhoon, the Captain hove the ship to. At the time the weather was very thick. A terrific sea sprung up and, the ship giving violent lee lurches, the cargo shifted, and put the vessel in a perilous condition. In the evening the Captain ordered the masts to be cut away as the storm was increasing, there was no possibility of trimming the cargo, and the ship was out of command. Unfortunately, when the masts went over the side, they smashed all the boats but one and tore the deck planking, so that the water began to find its way below. All Sunday the ship tumbled about terribly, and the decks, were not approachable, nevertheless hopes were entertained that a coasting steamer would heave in sigh. Nothing was seen however but a native sail or two running for shelter. At 2 a.m. on Monday the action of the vessel told them that the end was near, sea after sea poured on board and each left the vessel with less freeboard. An hour afterwards the Captain advised the men to get into or stand by the life boat which was lying on the hatch, bottomless, launching her being out of the question. The captain put his wife and two children in the stern of the boat, and almost immediately afterwards the vessel gave one violent lurch and disappeared. A number of the men were injured and knocked senseless by the in-rush of water. However, the tank-lined boat got away clear with the Captain, his wife and two children, and a number of the Chinese, whilst others clung to the life-lines outside. The darkness was intense, but by the occasional phosphorous-created waves other members of the crew were seen clinging to bits of wreckage. But the boat was unmanageable, the oars had washed out of her, and before many minutes she got broadside to the trough of the sea and turned over, each time dropping one or two of the occupants. Almost the first to disappear was the Captain's wife, and shortly afterwards the Captain himself. The Captain's children, a little boy and girl, were supported by the Chinese, but finally, about 5 a.m., were washed from their grasps,

the plucky fellows being almost too exhausted to save themselves. At break of day the weather moderated, and with it the sea; but the few survivors were helpless and in a sad plight, having been without food or water for two days, and in the boat they had neither oar nor sail. Their only hope lay in the passing of a steamer, which, about noon, was their good fortune. The H.A.L. str. *Alesia*, Capt. Knuth, had, owing to stress of weather, put into Amoy and, the typhoon being past, had left that morning for Shanghai. About noon, some sixty miles N.E. of the port, the officer of the watch sighted the boat with seven men, including the boatswain, sitting up to their necks in water, and within a cable length three more men were seen clinging to some pieces of wreckage. All were promptly got on board and Capt. Knuth, thinking there might be other survivors in the vicinity, cruised round and made a thorough search but without success. The men were brought on to Shanghai and are loud in their praise of the treatment they received on board. The mate went down in the ship, refusing to leave his cabin. The *Kitty* was an iron barque of 803 tons built in Amsterdam in 1856, and has been many years on the coast of China.—*N. C. Daily News.*

THE TYPHOON AT KOBE.

Kobe, 15th August, p.m.

At the time of writing, one of the worst storms experienced here for some years is raging. The Bund is two feet or more under water, Division Street and the side streets leading up from the Bund are under water to a certain extent, and already much damage has been done to trees, fences, etc. about the town and Hill. The storm came on very suddenly between 3 and, o'clock, and it is only too probable caught a number of craft unawares. The glass commenced to fall last midnight, but it was not until noon that it commenced to go down rapidly. Since then it has dropped steadily. It is difficult if not impossible to make out the shipping in harbour, but at 5 o'clock it was reported that the *Chingwo* was ashore and that the *Argyll* was in a dangerous position. The latter was then said to be getting up steam.

Since writing the above we have been able to obtain some additional particulars. In the first place the *Argyll* is ashore at Onohama, broadside on and at 6 o'clock the *Chingwo* though apparently still safe, was dangerously near the beach and being driven towards it. Happily just about that time there was a temporary lull in the storm, the glass rising perceptibly. We trust the change will continue, as we noticed several vessels in positions of danger. The *Bombay*, anchored a hundred or so yards off the Pier, was being steadily carried down upon the Pier when our reporter left the structure, and the schooner *Bessie E Stevens*, which lately crossed the Pacific in safety, was dangerously near the Bund wall. That protective work is strewn with wreckage and a considerable portion of the iron railings along the Bund has been levelled with the ground by the wreckage washed ashore. The Pier is a wreck, and the Boat House presents a sorry spectacle. In connection with the latter place it may be mentioned that the bathing stage is demolished and that, but for the timely and zealous work of two members of the Committee—Messrs. Kalkhof and Bethell—it is probable most of the boats would not be intact now. When the *Herald* man left the place at 6 o'clock the Captain (Mr. Sim) with the help of several others was seeing what could be done to protect the Club's property.

The *Argyll* was driven ashore on the point where the old Naval Yard stood, shortly after 5 o'clock. She now lies broadside one. Several residents were on the spot soon after she struck, and rendered valuable assistance in various ways. Owing to the sudden way in which the storm came up Captain Thomson was in shore, but at considerable risk he was hauled on board within a very few minutes of the accident, Mr. Sim and several Kobeites assisting in handling the shore and of the lines. We have said that the glass commenced to go up at about 6 p.m. It is to be hoped the improvement will continue. It is a most fortunate thing for Kobe that this storm broke over this district at low water, for had it occurred at high water the whole place would have been several feet under water. As it was, the state of the tide being almost low water, about half of the old Settlement was under water to some extent, and not a few residents had to wade knee deep on leaving their offices.—*Kobe Herald.*

THE LUNGCHOW RAILWAY.

The *Universal Gazette* publishes the following:—The French Minister has recently been most importunate in forcing upon the Tsungli Yamen the necessity of constructing the Chennankuan Lungchow Railway (Kuangsi-Annam borders), but to all the importunities of the French Minister the reply was given that "the Treasury is empty." Compelled at last to give a definite reply, the Tsungli Yamen finally said that, if France would advance the money, the railway could be built at once. Naturally the French Minister was only too glad to consent to loan the money, and the result is that France lends China Tls. 5,000,000 at 7 per cent interest to construct the abovenamed railway line.—*N. C. Daily News.*

HAIPHONG AS A MANUFACTURING CENTRE.

STARTING OF A CEMENT FACTORY.

We translate the the following from the *Courrier d'Haiphong*:—

Good news for our town, which tends more and more to be come an industrial centre of the first order! We learn that a cement factory is shortly to be established at Haiphong. A Company has been formed for this purpose and is to be called "Société des Ciments Portland artificiels de l'Indo-Chine." It is a Public Company with a capital of 1,500,000 francs divided into 300 shares (P 3,000) of 500 francs each. Its head office, like that of the Société Cottonière de l'Indo-Chine, is at Paris, 65, Rue de la Victoire. The objects of the Company are the manufacture and sale of lime, cement, and allied products, the carrying out of works constructed with cement, the building and purchase of factories and the working of quarries, etc. We wish the new company much success.

PLAGUE AT NEWCHWANG.

We (*Shanghai Mercury*) are indebted to the courtesy of J. Goodnow Esq., the U. S. Consul-General, for the following telegram, received from the U.S. Vice-Consul at Newchwang, on Sunday, 13th inst.:—

"Medical officer reports sporadic cases of plague."

GREAT FIRE AT YOKOHAMA.

The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following special telegram for its Kobe correspondent dated 13th August:—

There has been a terrible fire at Yokohama. It started in the Isezakicho in Theatre Street at nine on Saturday night and lasted several hours. Ten thousand houses have been destroyed, five theatres and one church, one school one police station, and one branch post office. There was a southwest wind blowing and the Waterworks were shut off at eight, but the water was obtained at ten. The Settlement was not touched.

import duty, but port charges, taxes on consumption of naval stores and provisions in the voyage, two per cent for unloading cargo, and a surtax of six per cent; the old Spanish duties not recognized under the American tariff, aggregating over $8,000 Mexican, which sum was collected without any possible authority.

It is also argued that inasmuch as the export took place under an official assurance of freedom from duty, the government should protect such assurance, and that the goods, being American no duty should be charged for their admission to any port under American control. And, furthermore, that by reason of the signing of the protocol on August 12, 1898, the occupation of the city of Manila became civil and not, in a full sense, military, and that no power existed on the part of any official of the United States, after such date, to collect duties in Manila.

The questions raised have not heretofore been passed upon, and their determination is awaited with considerable interest.

WEIHAIWEI.

9th August.

H.M.S. *Powerful* leaves this in a few days for home *via* the Suez Canal. She came out originally *via* the Cape. Her commander, Capt. Lambton, has been appointed "Chief of the Staff" in the Mediterranean, an old appointment resuscitated. The *Aurora* is expected here in a day or two to relieve the *Powerful*. The *Rattler* has been relieved here by the *Plover*.

You probably know already that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha is about to open a regular service, inward and outward, between Shanghai and Weihaiwei. It does not seem to say much for the enterprise of the British shipping firms that it should be left to the Japanese to incur any risk that may be involved in the attempt to develop trade here. The China Merchants' Co., are endeavouring to secure ground for godowns here. It is understood that they also propose to make this one of their regular ports of call.

A foreign surveyor while prospecting for gold, reports the discovery of a coal mine in the immediate neighbourhood. If it turns out all right it will probably be better worth having than a gold mine.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

It is reported that the brigands in Yeungkong have been joined by the robbers in Yeungchan and that they have appointed the 20th instant to raise the flag of rebellion.

A big fight broke out sometime ago between the clan of Kwan in the village of Sheangheaka and the clan of Lo in the village of Lokakwai, the cause being that the people of Lo tried to build a temple in a place owned by the clan of Kwan without the consent of the Kwan people. On the 12th instant Colonel Kwan Lai-tong was sent by the Canton authorities to stop the fight with a number of soldiers. When the soldiers arrived on the scene, the people of Lo, thinking that they were not real soldiers, fired at them. Twenty soldiers were killed and fifty wounded and all the rest were hemmed in on all sides by the people of Lo in a very dangerous position. Colonel Cheng Yun-tsoi, hearing this, at once marched with a good number of soldiers to the rescue. The people of Lo, seeing the arrival of another body of troops, knew that they were mistaken and made good their escape. The case was immediately reported to the Viceroy, who was very angry and on the 14th inst. sent General Liu Yung-fu with an order to execute every person of the Lo clan and destroy the whole village of Lokakwai. When the General got there he arrested and executed four people of Lo, one of whom was a woman who sprang forward and tried to set free her husband, who was one of those about to be executed. The village of Lokakwai has been completely deserted. The General burnt all the houses, numbering over a hundred.

On the 9th inst., the Saichiu brigands gave a theatrical performance in a place near Taipingsa to chinchin joss on account of their success and prosperity. Colonel Cheng Wailam and Colonel Wong Tsun-nam, hearing this, marched with their soldiers to attack the brigands by surprise. When they arrived at the scene the brigands rushed forward to meet them. A fearful encounter followed. The soldiers succeeded in capturing alive a brigand leader named Wan Kau together with two other robbers and killing seven or eight of them. Two soldiers were killed and a good number wounded. A military officer named Li Lo-po was also fatally shot by the brigands.

On the 7th inst. at daybreak a village named Potso, in Sanning district, where the people are very rich, for most of them have returned from America, was attacked by about a thousand robbers who arrived in twenty large junks. The Iukongs beat gongs to give the alarm and offered deadly opposition, but as they were few in number they were easily defeated. Five Iukongs were killed and twenty wounded. Over one hundred and eighty houses were robbed. The robbers did not go away till the afternoon, when they carried away booty amounting in value to over one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

On the 9th inst. a guard boat sailing from Kunshan to Fatshan was attacked midway by fifty pirates. There were twenty soldiers on board. After an encounter of a few minutes the soldiers were defeated and jumped overboard to make their escape. The pirates seized the officer in charge of the guard boat, who dared not jump overboard on account of his being unable to swim. The pirates then carried away all the weapons and ammunition found on board the boat. The officer was at last released by the pirates after they had beaten him until he was half dead.

HONGKONG.

There were 1,904 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, 151 of whom were Europeans.

The rainfall for the twenty-four hours ending at 10 a.m. on Thursday amounted to 6.75 inches.

Mr. J. G. T. Buckle, lately Assistant Colonial Secretary, left for Australia by the *Guthrie*. Mr. Buckle, we understand, has resigned the Hongkong Civil Service.

In addition to plague the only cases of communicable disease reported last week were one of enteric fever and one fatal case of puerperal fever.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that the Hon. H. E. Pollock has been elected a member of the Church Body for the current year, vice Mr. A. P. MacEwen resigned.

On Tuesday afternoon a coolie who was working on the *City of Carlisle* was killed by the head of a work-mate's hammer, which flew off and struck him on the head.

On Monday afternoon Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale by auction Kowloon Inland Lots Nos. 907 and 908, but was not able to secure any bid.

On Sunday night Chief-Detective Inspector Hanson and Detective Sullivan raided No. 244 Hollywood Road, and arrested 17 men engaged in gambling. They were brought up at the Magistracy on Monday morning. The two keepers were each fined $25, and the rest $5 each. This is the same house where a gambling raid took place January last, on which occasion a man lost his life by falling from a height while attempting to escape.

The process of the gradual acquisition by Chinese of houses on the upper levels is going on rapidly. The residence of the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., on Caine Road, has just been sold to a Chinese investor for $55,000. The price is very handsome, though the house is spacious and stands in a considerable compound.

The Norwegian-built Australian barque *Rose*, Capt. Rickers, which left Hongkong on the 30th July for Vancouver in ballast, arrived at Shanghai on the 14th August in distress, wanting repairs, having had an extremely dangerous time during the recent typhoon when to the southward of Formosa.

At the Magistracy on Tuesday Henry Oliver, licensee of the Travellers' Hotel, Queen Victoria Street, was charged with allowing a disorder on his premises. Inspector McLennan said that at about half-past nine on Sunday night he was going along Queen's Road in a 'ricksha, and when passing Queen Victoria Street he heard a police whistle blown from the direction of the Travellers' Hotel. He ran down and met defendant's wife at the door. He asked her what was wrong and she replied, "Please come in and put out these merchant seamen." He went in and found in the room seven or eight merchant seamen and about ten English blue-jackets. It looked as if there was going to be some trouble. Hearing a noise in the back room, as if blows were being struck, he asked defendant's wife what was going on, and she went to the door and called out "Open the door, the police are here." The door was opened at once from the inside, and he saw two blue-jackets stripped to the waist fighting. They were sober, but the other men were more or less under the influence of drink. When they saw him the men stopped fighting and excused themselves by saying they were "having a bit of a set-to." Defendant's wife was only about three yards from the door and must have heard what was going on, and he asked her why she had not told him about it.—Defendant said the men, who had got their drink somewhere else, came into his house and started fighting. He sent his wife and boy for the police at once.—Defendant was cautioned and discharged.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, 36.3, and for the Chinese community 29.3.

On Tuesday afternoon a coolie employed on some houses in the course of erection in Macdonnell Road fell from a scaffold, a distance of 15 feet from the ground, and was killed instaneously.

The statement that the six months' working of the China Sugar Refining Co., Limited, has resulted in a loss, has come as a great surprise to the shareholders, who had looked for a quite different announcement. Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., of Shanghai, in their share circular dated 14th August, referring to this stock say:—"It is reported that the interim dividend will be $5." Instead of that there is a dividend of $2 only, to be paid not from profits but from the equalisation of dividends fund.

Mr. Grist appeared at the Magistracy on Thursday for several Chinese shopkeepers, who were charged, according to the summons, that they "did commit divers offence sagainst the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Ordinance 15 of 1890, as set forth in the complaint hereto attached." Mr. Grist remarked that there was no complaint attached—Mr. Gedge, who appeared for complainants, said he applied for summonses and they were issued by the clerks in the Magistracy with the four charges against the defendants pinned to the original summonses but not to the copies, as they were issued late the previous evening and in a great hurry. The police had instructions to show the originals to the defendants.—The cases were adjourned for a week, Mr. Gedge promising to supply Mr. Grist with the charges in the meantime.—The defendants are Sz To Yuk and Li Pak, masters of the Lai Wo Cheung shop, 255, Queen's Road Central; Sz To Wan and Li Cheung, masters of the Mui Cheung shop, 259, Queen's Road Central; Chan Fuk Hing, master of the Shui Yik shop, No. 280 Queen's Road Central; Fong Yau, master of the Ying Cheung Lung shop, 291, Queen's Road Central; Ng Ki Cheung and Ng Ki Fat, master of the Shun On Cheung shop 295, Queen's Road Central; and Tsin U Kai, master of the Wo On shop, 302, Queen's Road Central. The charges are four in number. The first charge alleges that the defendants unlawfully and with intent to defraud the New York Condensed Milk Company forged the trade mark or mark of the figure of an eagle with outstretched wings standing with outstretched talons. On a scroll on either side are the words "Eagle" and "Brand," and above the eagle are the words "Gail Bardon" depicted on a scroll. The other charges are but slightly different from the first.

We make the following extracts from Mr. E. Georg's weekly share list dated 19th August:—Star Ferries have been done from $16½ to $17, and are in demand at the latter figure. I hear it has been decided to build two more "double enders" for the traffic, so that in addition to calling up the remainder of the capital it may be necessary to call for fresh capital to pay for them.—In the early part of the week, China Sugars, after going down to $167, advanced to $168½ buyers, but only to recede again to $167, which rate was kept up, with sales, till Thursday morning; but after the meeting of the Consulting Committee held on that day and at which it was disclosed that, instead of earning money, the Company had actually lost $80,000 during the half-year and that the interim dividend of $2 per share, payable on 2nd proximo, was to come out of the equalization of dividends fund, the rate suddenly fell to $160, at which figure a fair business has been done, the market closing weak to-day with sellers at $159. I hear, however, that since closing of the books on 30th June, the Company has done well and propects are better.—Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's shares kept rather quiet during the early part of the week, and actually went down to 487 per cent. prem. for end of the month, at which rate and at 490 per cent. prem business was done, but later on a much firmer feeling set in, caused by the news that probably another good job was in store for the Company by the stranding of the American transport *Hooker* on Corregidor Island in Manila Bay, and shares were strongly enquired after at 495 to 500 per cent. prem. without leading to much business. I make the closing rate 505 per cent. prem. buyers.

A *Gazette* Extraodinary was issued on Thursday revoking the proclamation of the 18th March delaring Amoy an infected port.

The Right Rev. Bishop Bardon is at present staying at Craigieburn, having been compelled to leave Pakhoi owing, we regret to learn, to a breakdown in health.

On Saturday afternoon the interment of the remains of Private Williams, who died from plague at the Military Hospital in the morning, took place. Deceased was admitted to the Hospital on Thursday evening.

A Vancouver paper says:—The high rates demanded by sailing ships for carrying wheat have resulted in bringing the tramp steamers into the field. The first one to be chartered for new-season wheat is the steamer *Flintshire*, 2,476 tons net, to load at Portland for the United Kingdom at 40 shillings. The *Fintshire* is now on her way to Hongkong *via* Suez.

At the Magistracy on 18th August a boy in the employ of the shroff of Messrs. Caldbeck, Macgregor and Co. was sentened to four months hard labour for embezzling $49.50. On the 15th July defendant collected a cheque for $74.50 from Mrs. Stevens, Edenhall. He cashed the cheque at the Chartered Bank and paid $25 to the shroff. Defendant admitted the offence, and stated he gave the money to a friend.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The 'ricksha is to be introduced into Manila, some 500 having been ordered from Japan to begin with.

The Macao papers report the outbreak of another rebellion in Timor. Lieutenant Duarte was killed in an engagement with the rebels.

Business is stopped at Newchwang by the plague and the alarm its appearance has caused among the coolies and others.—*N. C. Daily News.*

A band of thirteen armed robbers made a raid on Messrs. Carlowitz & Co.'s godowns in the German Concession, Tientsin, on the 11th August, and afte trying up the watchmen carried off a number of bales of piece-goods.

The typhoon has apparently been felt with some severity further north. Notifications were issued by the Cable Companies yesterday stating that cable communication with Amoy and Foochow was interrupted, and that there appeared to be no communication by the Chinese land lines either.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong* says:—The recent typhoon has destroyed the greater part of the mud-wall buildings erected at Kwangchowwan, amongst others the Military Hospital, the quarters of the Commandant and officers, and the Post Office. It will be necessary to rebuild all these. Let us hope that the authorities will profit by experience and that the new buildings will be made strong enough to resist the storms so frequent in these parts.

Mr. E. de Bavier, who has been writing a series of articles in the *N. C. Daily News* on the export trade of China, concludes with the following reflections:—Our expectations have run too high; we must look at things from a less lofty position, dealing simply with matters of fact, which are easier to understand. There is no doubt of the commercial possibilities of China, but we hold that, for the present, the country's development cannot keep pace with the increased competition. There is too much talk about China's commerce, prosperity, and future. What we want is less talk and more business.

Writing of life in the tropics the "Moralist" of the *Straits Times* says:—The objection I have to the tropics is summed up largely in the fact that one lives more or less in a state of perspiration, varying from mild to severe sweat. I don't like it. I don't want to like it, and I never will like it. As a young gentleman said to me the other day: "it spoils even the pleasures of love-making. What is the good," added my informant, who is young, "of caressing a pretty woman's cheek when one finds it clammy with perspiration. A nice fresh, cool cheek," he said, "is what I want." I pointed out to him that I thought he had plenty of fresh cool cheek.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 17th August.—Macao Congous.—There has practically been nothing doing during the past month, the few small purchases reported barely aggregating 1,500 boxes. The supply of Macao Tea has never been so small as it is just now, which fact, together with the few extraneous orders in the market, serves to maintain prices. Scented Capers.—The market has been exceeding quiet during the past month, 11,000 boxes only having changed hands during that time, making a total to date of 135,000 boxes. Prices have ruled in favour of buyers, and may be said roughly to have declined Tl. 1 per picul. Scenting flower has been remarkably cheap and plentiful. Stocks in native hands are estimated at 25, 00 boxes, and we do not think that the total export for the season will exceed to 4½ mils.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1899-1900 lbs.	1898-99 lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	9,544,030	10,608,322
Amoy.....	141,853	153,821
Foochow	8,913,132	8,802,919
Canton	2,895,664	2,370,210
	21,494,679	21,935,272

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900 lbs.	1898-99. lbs.
Shanghai	1,222,849	1,132,577
Amoy	2,988,432	3,989,937
Foochow	1,767,642	1,747,669
	5,978,923	6,870,183

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 19th August.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—The Home markets are firmer, and Blue Elephants are still quoted at 12/10½ in London, but Gold Kilings have advanced to Fcs. 32 in Lyons. Raw Silk.—Although the volume of business is not very large this week, yet it has been more general, and prices show a rise. Fine Tsatlees are in demand, but holders are asking a big advance on their former prices. Coarse Silks have found buyers, and about 350 bales have changed hands. Yellow Silk is still in good demand, and prices are very steady. About 250 bales have been settled. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, August 12th to 18th, are: 2,765 bales White, 651 bales Yellow and 123 bales Wild Silks. Re-reels and Hand Filatures.—A small business is going on in these for the Lyons market. Steam Filatures are still in request, and 250/300 bales have been settled principally for Lyons; there is a slight demand for America. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 1,048 bales to America, 921 bales to the Continent, and 26 bales to London. Wild Silk.—A fair demand has sprung up and about 100 bales have been settled. Waste Silk.—The market is quieter, 300 piculs Long Shantung Waste B (whole bales) have been done at Tls. 25½.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1899-1900 bales.	1898-99 bales.
Shanghai	31,011	18,642
Canton	5,321	4,765
Yokohama	1,693	1,310
	38,025	24,717

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1899-1900 bales.	1898-9 bales.
Shanghai	3,500	771
Canton	1,785	1,784
Yokohama.....	2,888	1,039
	9,173	3,594

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 25th August.—The market is weaker. Quotation for Formosa are $69.00 to $70.00, sales 400 piels.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 25th August.—The market has given way a little and prices are declining. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	$8.32 to $8.34	cl.
do. „ 2, White...	7.77 to 7.79	„
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.71 to 5.75	pcl.
do. „ 2, Brown...	5.56 to 5.60	„
Swatow, No. 1, White...	8.06 to 8.12	„
do. „ 1, White...	7.70 to 7.72	„
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	5.55 to 5.57	„
do. „ 2, Brown...	5.49 to 5.51	„
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.00 to 12.10	„
Sekloon „	11.00 to 11.20	„

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Dioned*, sailed on the 2nd August. For London:—3,398 boxes tea (71,358 lbs. Sc., 1.2. 3 boxes and 400 packages particulars unknown). 539 boxes and 303 ½-chests tea from Amoy, 75 bales waste silk, 16 bales canes, 37 cases bristles, 72 cases blackwoodware, 7 cases bambooware, 25 cases aniseed oil, 30 cases essential oil, 50 cases fans, 3 cases curios. 366 cases and 32 boxes Chinaware, 976 rolls matting, 2 coils wire rope, 100 casks preserves, 97 packages feathers, 275 pkgs. shells, 9 pkgs. private effects, and 23 packages sundries. For London option Manchester:—3 bales waste silk. For London option Glasgow:—100 casks ginger. For London option Antwerp option Hamburg:—10 boxes bristles. For Manchester:—380 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—1 box chronometer. For Glasgow:—29 cases whisky, 10 cases pineapples, 8 cases blackwoodware, and 2 cases sundries. For Antwerp:—15 bales split bamboo and 100 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—500 boxes tea, 50 bales feathers, and 3 cases shells.

Per steamer *Silesia*, sailed on the 7th August. For Havre:—1 case sundries, 1 case silks, 1 case ylang ylang, 2 cases fans, 4 cases feathers, 4 cases birdfeathers, 6 cases paper, 9 cases China ink, 11 cases blackwoodware, 17 bales hides, 30 cases bristles, 30 cases human hair, 95 cases Chinaware, 99 bales canes, 102 bales split bamboos, 509 rolls matting and 1,293 cases tea. For Havre and or Hamburg:—1 case carpets 1 case goatshair, 3 cases bronze, 3 cases enamels 12 cases blackwoodware, 22 cases human hair, 25 bales canes, 75 cases Chinaware, 100 cases staraniseed and 570 rolls matting. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—8 bales cowhides. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—1 case gongs and 50 cases bristles. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London and/or Antweep:—50 cases bristles. For Hamburg.—1 case carpets, 2 cases umbrellas, 2 cases silks, 3 cases hammocks, 4 bales cowhides, 4 cases ylang ylang, 4 cases private effects, 6 cases paper, 9 cases cigars, 10 bales goatshair, 10 cases bamboo fans, 11 cases sundries, 12 casks woodoil, and 14 cases curios, 20 cases palmbark, 21 pakages bamboos, 37 cases Chinaware, 50 cases blackwoodware, 65 cases preserves, 120 bales rattanshavings, 123 bales bristles, 154 rolls matting, 161 bales tobacco, 250 cases fire crackers, 251 bales canes, 300 bales turmeric, 400 cases starsniseed, 490 cases camphor, 403 bales feathers, 550 bales broken cassia, 950 cassia, and 2,221 chests tea. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—122 cases bristles. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp and/or London:—50 cases gallnuts, 76 cases bristles. For Hamburg and/or London:—43 cases skins, 70 bales goatrugs, 312 bales strawbraid For Hamburg and/or Brémen.—25 casks ginger. For Antwerp.—2 cases cigars, 2 packages tea, 25 bales feathers, and 29 cases staraniseed. For Copenhagen.—50 chests tea and 400 cases cassia. For Christiania.—2 cases curios. For Lisbon.—2 cases Chinaware. For Buenos Ayres.—150 cases palmleaffans. For London, 7 cases cigars.

Per German steamer *Prinz Heinrich*, sailed 16th August. For Singapore:—321 bags flour, 135 rolls matting and 79 coils rope. For Matupi:—2 cases samples. For Trieste:—100 boxes cassia and 50 bales rattan shaving. For Odessa:—200 boxes cassia lignea. For Genoa:—584 bales waste silk, 90 bales raw silk, and 1 case silks. For Antwerp:—105 bales feathers, 64 rolls matting, 39 packages tea, 20 cases leaf tobacco, 18 cases Chinaware, 10 pkgs. camphorwoodtrunks, and 1 case leather. For Antwerp and/or Rotterdam:—306 casks gum copal. For Amsterdam:—2 cases Chinaware, 15 cases palm leaf fans, 15 cases canes, 9 cases lacquceredware, and 1 case earthenware. For Rotterdam:—20 cases and 10 bales cassia, 10 cases and 10 casks ginger. For Christiania:—108 packages tea. For Stockholm:—185 pkgs. tea, 2 cases, and 1 bale cassia. For Bremen:—250 ½-chests tea, 85 rolls matting, 40 boxes cassia lignea, 10 boxes palm leaf fans, 4 cases sundries, 3 boxes bamboo baskets, and 3 cases cigars. For Hamburg:—1,100 boxes cassia, 230 bales feathers, 50 bags Chinaroot, and 5 cases sundries.

Per P. & O. steamer *Manila*, sailed on the 18th August. For London.—515 boxes, 3 pkgs. and 793 ½-chests from Amoy, (6,638 boxes tea 139,398 lbs. Sc. Capor, 610 boxes tea, 12810 lbs. Sorts) 500 bales hemp and 2 cases cigars from Manila, 1,099 bales hemps, 7 cases cigars, 6 cases lacq ware, 132 bales bambooware, 200 cases cassia, 300 rolls matting, 1,050 cases preserves, 3 boxes feathers, 150 bales waste silk, 60 bales canes, and 4 cases blackwoodware. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—250 bales cassia.

Per P. & O. steamer *Parramatta*, sailed on the 19th August. For London:—43 bales raw silk, 4 cases silks, and 1 case private effects. For Manchester:—199 bales waste silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—565 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—260 chests tea, 150 bales raw silk, 133 bales wastesilk, 3 cases silks, and 1 box nails

Per steamer *Dardanus*, sailed on the 19th August. For London:—1,093 boxes tea (41,852 lbs. Sc., caper, 400 boxes tea 8,400 lbs. Sorts, 600 boxes and 70 ½-chests particulars unknown) 22 cases Chinaware, 12 cases bristles, 8 cases blackwoodware, 20 cases aniseed oil, 108 bales feathers and 3 boxes feathers, and 10 p'kages sundries. For London option Liverpool:—1 package cordage. For Hamburg:—1,174 boxes tea, 200 bales Chinaroot 138 bales canes, and 1 package cane samples. For Antwerp:—69 bales split bamboo. For Odessa:—105 bales canes.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 25th Aug.—Bengal.—Prices have experienced a decline and the market closes weak at the following figures:—New Patna $855, Old Patna $880 and New Benares $835.

Malwa.—At the commencement of the week under review a fair amount of business was put through, since, when the demand has slackened and rates have had a slight decline. Closing quotations are:—

Old (2 yrs.)	$780	with allce of	½ to 2½ catties
„ (3/4 „)	$800	„ „ „	1 to 2½ „
„ (5/6 „)	$820	„ „ „	— to 1½ „
„ (7/8 „)	$840	„ „ „	— to 1½ „

Persian.—There has been very little doing during the interval. Latest rates are:—Oily $650 and Paper-tied $650 to $750 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	11,312 chests.
Old Patna	120 „
New Benares.....	470 „
Malwa.....	610 „
Persian	702 „

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA. New.	PATNA. Old.	BENARES. New.	BENARES. Old.	MALWA. New.	MALWA. Old.
1899.	$	$	$	$	$	$
Aug. 19	870	890	843½	—	—	[illegible]
Aug. 20	870	890	843½	—	—	[illegible]
Aug. 21	865	890	842½	—	—	[illegible]
Aug. 22	860	890	840	—	—	[illegible]
Aug. 23	860	890	837½	—	—	[illegible]
Aug. 24	860	890	837½	—	—	[illegible]
Aug. 25	855	880	835	—	—	[illegible]

RICE.

HONGKONG, 25th August.—No grain having been received from Siam and the local crops in some parts having been poor, prices are steadily advancing. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	$2.41 to [illegible]
„ Round, good quality.....	2.82 to [illegible]
„ Long	3.12½ to [illegible]
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.77½ to [illegible]
„ Garden, „ No. 1	3.41½ to [illegible]
„ White.....	3.72½ to [illegible]
„ Fine Cargo	3.95 to [illegible]

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 25th August.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn:—1,105 bales No. 10 at $71 to $82, 500 bales No. 12 at $77.50 to $77.50, 50 bales No. 16 at $81.50, 600 bales No. 20 at $81 to $83. *Grey Shirtings*:—1,200 pieces 8¼ lbs. Blue Joss at $3.02½, *White Shirtings*, 500 piculs No. 600 at $4.52½, 500 piculs S. Q. at $6.50, 1,250 piculs Blue Dragon at $5.20, 800 piculs No. 1 at 6.07½, 300 piculs No. 2 at $5.50, *R Cloths*.—600 prices 8 lbs. V.V, at $2.97½. Cotton Yarn—

		per bale		
Bombay—Nos.	10 to 20s.	59.00	to	91.00
English—Nos.	16 to 24	100.00	to	106.00
,,	22 to 24	104.00	to	106.00
,,	28 to 32	113.00	to	119.00
,,	38 to 42	123.00	to	131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

		per piece		
Grey Shirtings—	6lbs.	1.72	to	1.82
	7lbs.	1.93	to	2.05
	8.4 lbs.	2.40	to	3.15
	9 to 10 lbs	3.25	to	4.10
White Shirtings—	54 to 56 rd.	2.30	to	2.50
	58 to 60 ,,	2.70	to	3.35
	64 to 66 ,,	3.55	to	4.40
	Fine	4.40	to	7.15
	Book-folds.	3.85	to	5.75
Victoria Lawns—12 yards		0.66	to	1.35
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.). Ord'y.		1.52	to	1.72
7lbs. (32 ,,), ,,		1.85	to	2.10
6lbs. (32 ,,), Mexs.		1.62	to	1.82
7lbs. (32 ,,), ,,		2.10	to	2.75
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)		2.35	to	3.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16lbs		3.65	to	6.35
FANCY COTTONS—				
Turkey Red Shirtings—1¼ to 8lbs.		1.60	to	4.75
Brocades—Dyed		3.00	—	—
		per yard		
Damasks		0.12	to	0.14
Chintzes—Assorted		0.08	—	—
Velvets—Black, 22 in.		0.20	to	0.40
Velveteens—18 in.		0.18	to	0.19
		per dozen		
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk		0.25	to	1.25

WOOLLENS—

		per yard		
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.		0.62½	to	1.62½
German		—	to	
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.		1.20	to	2.25
		per piece		
Long Ells—Scarlet		6.20	to	9.50
Assorted		6.30	to	9.60
Camlets—Assorted		11.50	to	31.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted		8.00	to	20.00
Orleans—Plain		7.50	to	8.50
		per pair		
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	(pair)	4.50	to	14.00

METALS—

		per picul		
Iron—Nail Rod		5.25	to	—
Square, Flat Round Bar		5.40	to	—
Swedish Bar		7.00	to	—
Small Round Rod		5.50	to	—
Hoop ⅜ to 11/2 in.		6.00	to	—
Wire 15/25		10.00	to	—
Old Wire Rope		2.50	to	—
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop		9.00	to	—
Australian		9.00	to	—
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.		41.50	to	—
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.		41.50	to	—
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.		41.50	to	—
Composition Nails		65.00	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs		40.00	to	—
Tiles		—	to	—
Tin		81.00	to	—
		per box.		
Tin Plates		8.80	to	—
		per cwt. case		
Steel ½ to ⅜		6.25	to	—

SUNDRIES—

		per picul		
Quicksilver		151.00	to	—
		per box		
Window Glass		5.80	to	—
,,		per 10-gal. case		
Kerosene Oil		2.21½		—

AMOY, 19th August.—(From Messrs. Noel Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.—We can only report another week of extreme quietness, in fact it may be said that the market has assumed its normal aspect for the season of the year. There is naturally a certain amount of sales of less speculative enquiry by those who have available funds in hand, but the low and altogether inadequate prices ruling at Auction seem to have a great influence over their ideas of value at present. On the other hand holders are not at all disposed, for the most part, to meet their views, though there is no telling what a sudden scare might do, such as the disquieting news received a day two since of the outbreak of bubonic plague in Newchwang. Alarmist advices have been received from that Port to the effect that trade is demoralised, the natives generally being panic stricken, but this is not at all confirmed by the private advices of the dealers or the action of the merchants, who assert that the market is very good, and this is borne out by the fact that they are steadily buying from the second hand holders. Tientsin is decidedly quite, the season, as explained to us, being that the seventh moon of the Chinese year, is the last month of the Customs' Taotai's (or some other official's) term of office, and it is the usual thing for him to make the most of his rapidly expiring opportunities—those acquainted with the trade will understand what that means! There is consequently a temporary lull in the import trade, which is resumed when his successor takes office and only the ordinary squeezes are imposed. How many of such little "irregularities" that have become "old custom exist it is impossible to say, but the sooner they are found out and exposed the better it will be both for foreign trade and the country generally. Clearances are keeping up very satisfactorily for other Ports and there is no news of anything to disturb trade. In Szechuen the heat has been intense however, but in this neighbourhood, particularly, the summer has been extraordinarily cool so far, but the rain fall is quite abnormal. The fruit, and food crops generally, have suffered considerably, and Cotton is running to stalk, but if fine weather now intervenes the crop will not suffer to any great extent. An average crop will yield 34 to 35 catties to the picul of Seed Cotton, this year, from present appearances, it looks as though it would be about 20 per sent. less. It is not at all easy to estimate, however, as the planting is done most irregularly, and often in little patches covering an area of only a few feet, sometimes on the top of a small mound, the bank of a creek, or the border of a paddy field. In this way it is extremely difficult, if not absolutely impossible at present to form an approximate idea of the quantity of Cotton grown in China, but it does not seem to be much less per acre than is produced in America, notwithstanding the rough and ready way in which it is cultivated. There is less doing in Indian Yarn for the reason that Importers have been advised, or instructed from Bombay, to hold for higher prices owing to the big advance that has taken place there on account of the damage done to the Cotton crop by the drought that is prevailing. There is rather more movement in Japanese Spinnings at a further advance and a few contracts have been made at slightly over current rates, but at the close it is said prices in Japan have gone up the equivalent of two taels. Local Spinners remain very firm and will only sell at a substantial advance. Cotton is strong at Tls. 14.00 net for best steam machine ginned, but we have not heard of any business at that price as yet. Bengal Cotton has been sold during the interval at Tls. 12.50 per picul.

METALS, 21st August.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report)—Metals remain firm, and although there have not been many orders placed, yet business has been progressing fairly well. The Iron market is not likely to go down much in the immediate future on account of big contracts that have been secured by foreign firms for railway undertakings in China. The Carnegie firm in America has secured a contract for 160,000 tons of material for the Russian Manchurian railway, and the Hamburg-American line of Steamers have booked 90,000 to 100,000 tons of the same material for the German colony at Tsingtau. The fulfilment of these orders will naturally give a considerable impetus to iron imports. A small error crept into last week's report which we now amend. Instead of 700 tons of London Horse Shoes at 88/, the figures should have been 98/. Transactions during the week were:—90 cases Yellow Metal Sheathing £70 to £72 per ton. 60 tons Old Guide Rope 116s/, c.i.f. &c.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 25th August.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11⅛
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 3/16
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11⅛
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/16
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0⅛
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.49
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.52
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.01
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47⅛
Credits, 60 days' sight	48⅛
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147
Bank, on demand	147⅛
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147
Bank, on demand	147⅛
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72⅝
Private, 30 days' sight	73⅛
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	4⅛ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE:—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Buying Rate	10.08
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	52.40

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 25th August.—The market has ruled rather quieter during the week and rates easier except in Docks, which have still continued to rise.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais immediately after the payment of the dividend changed hands in small lots at 362 per cent. prem., the rate gradually declining to 360, at which the market closes quiet. On time no business has been reported. Nationals have found buyers at $25¼ and $25½.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have been enquired for and sales effected at $260. Cantons after small sales at $250 could be placed at quotation, but no more seem forthcoming. China Traders, Straits, and the Northern Insurances remain quiet with no business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have changed hands at $312½ and more could be placed at that rate. Chinas have ruled quiet with small sales at quotation.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos continue quiet but steady with small sales at $32 and $32½. Indo-Chinas have changed hands at $71 and $70, closing quiet with sellers at $68. Douglases have declined to $56 with sellers and no sales. China Manilas and China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have further declined to $ 53 after sales at $156, $155, and $154. Luzons have changed hands at $54½.

MINING.—Punjoms remain weak with sellers and no buyers at $10; business has been of the smallest description. Charbonnages have been enquired for at $235 to $240, without bringing any shares on the market. Queens have changed hands at 47½ cents and 50, and Oliver's and Great Easterns at quotations, all closing steady. Jelebus have ruled quiet with sellers at $14.10 and but few sales, market closing with sellers at $14.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been negotiated at 505, 510, 520, and 525 per cent. prem. ex dividend in small lots, closing with sellers at 520. Kowloon Wharves have been in request and no shares being obtainable the rate rose to $96, at which sales were effected and the market closes firm. Wanchais have changed hands at quotation and further small lots are required.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been in better demand and a fair business has been put through at $105, $105½, $1 6, and $106½, market closing steady at the last rate. Hotels have ruled rather quieter but steady at $13 with small sales at that and at $134 for December, the market closing steady to firm. West Points have continued quiet with small sales at $36. Humphreys have declined to $10 with sales, but close with buyers at that rate. Kowloon Lands quiet and without business.

COTTON MILLS.—Remain out of the market with no business to report except in Hongkongs, which have been placed at $70.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Star Ferries have changed hands at $17 and $16½, Green Islands at $32 and $31½, China Borneos at $10, and Watsons at $17. Electrics have declined to $13 after small sales at $14½ and $14. Fenwicks have changed hands at $48 and China Providents at $9.90 and $10.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[$575, ex div. sells
Hongkong & S'hai...	$125	360 p. ct. prem.,—
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	$25. buyers
Foun. Shares...	£8	$25, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	$10	$12, buyers
China Prov. L. & M....	$10	$10, sellers
China Sugar	$100	$153.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 67½
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 77½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 350
Yahloong.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 57½
Hongkong	$100	$70, sales
Dairy Farm.....	$6	$5.25. buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	$25	$43, sales & sellers
Green Island Cement...	$50	$31, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	$50	$25.
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	$127.
Hongkong Electric ...	$10	$13, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	$100	$145.
Hongkong Hotel	$50	$128 ex div., bys.
Hongkong Ice.....	$25	$130, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	$50	$96.
Hongkong Rope.....	$50	$188, sales
H. & W. Dock	$125	$520 p. ct. prem.=
Insurance—		[$775, ex div. bys.
Canton	$50	$150, buyers
China Fire	$20	$88½.
China Traders'	$25	$62, sellers
Hongkong Fire	$50	$312½, buyers
North China	£25	Tls. 200, buyers
Straits	$20	$6½, buyers
Union	$50	$260, sales
Yangtsze	$60	$117, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	$50	$106½, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	$10	$10, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	$30	$29, sellers
West Point Building	$50	$36, sellers
Luzon Sugar	$100	$54½, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	$240, buyers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	$5	$3.30 buyers
Do. Preference...	$1	$80, sellers
Jelebu	$5	$14, sellers
Queen's Mines Ld....	25c.	50 cts., sls. & sells
Oliver's Mines, A....	$5	$3½, sellers
Do. B....	$4½	$6¼, sellers
Punjom	$6	$10, sellers
Do. Perference...	$1	$2.
Raubs	15s 10d	$60½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	$6¾	$16½, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	$50	$91.
China Mutual Pref.	£10	£9, 15s., buyers
China Ordinary	£10	£6, 0s., buyers
Do.	£5	£3, 0s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	$50	$56, sellers
H., Canton and M...	$15	$32, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	$68, sellers
Star Ferry	$7½	$17½, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	$5	$5, sellers
Do.	$3	$3, sellers
United Asbestos	$2	$2½, buyers
Do.	$10	$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse ...	$37½	$45, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	$10	$17, sales

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 21st August.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Business has been chiefly confined to Indo-China S. N. and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares, although Cotton Mill shares have received more attention than has been the case for some time. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Only one transaction is reported, a sale to Hongkong at 368 per cent. premium. There are a few cash shares offering at the close. We quote 362 per cent. as the closing rate ex div. National Bank of China shares are wanted at $24. Marine Insurance.—North Chinas have been in demand, and were sold at Tls. 197½ and Tls. 200, and are wanted at the close. Yangtszes are wanted at $115. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs are wanted at $310, while Chinas are offering at $89½. Shipping.—A large business has been done in Indo-China Steam Navigation shares at Tls. 51/52½ cash, Tls. 52½/53 for the 31st current, Tls. 53½ for September, and Tls. 54½ for December. Shares were purchased from Hongkong for December delivery at $74. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are offering at Tls. 61. The China Sugar Refining Co. has declared an interim dividend of $2. Luzon Sugar Refining shares were purchased from Hongkong at $54½. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. are wanted. S. C. Farnham & Co. shares changed hands at Tls. 215/210, closing at Tls. 215. Shanghai Engineering, Shipbuilding & Dock Co., Ld.—Ordinary shares are weak, with sellers. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co.—Shares were sold for cash and the end of August at Tls. 232½, for September at Tls. 235, for November at Tls. 240, and for December at Tls. 242½. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf shares are wanted at $93. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares are enquired for at Tls. 82. Hongkong Land Investment shares were sold to Hongkong at $105. Industrial.—Major Brothers shares were parted with at Tls. 35. In Cotton Mill shares, Internations were sold at Tls. 76½ for October and Tls. 78 for December; Laou-kung-mows at Tls. 75 and Tls. 77½ cash; and Yah Loongs at Tls. 57½ cash and Tls. 60 for September. American Cigarette shares were placed at Tls. 67½. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Co-operative Cargo Boat shares were placed at Tls. 170. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Langkat Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 145 cash, Tls. 160 for December, and are weak with sellers. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares were placed at Tls. 80. Loans.—Shanghai Gas 6 per cent Debentures were sold at Tls. 101. Debentures are wanted.

Quotations are:—

BANKS,
Hongkong and Shanghai.—$565.00.
Bank of China and Japan, Ld.—£1.0.
Do. ordinary.—£.5.5.0.
National Bank of China, Ld.—$24.00.

COTTON MILLS,
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ld.—Tls. 62 50.
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—$75.00.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ld.—Tls. 75.00.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ld.—Tls. 77.50.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ld.—Tls. 350.00.

DOCKS, WHARVES, &c.,
Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 190.00.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Company.—$93.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.—$736.25.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 215.00.
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 1.0.00.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 232.50.

INSURANCES,
Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—$140.00.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—$89.00.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—$62.00.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—$310.00
North China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 200.00.
Straits Insurance Co., Ld.—$6.50.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld.—$240.
Yangtsze Insurance Assocn., Ld.—$115.00.

LANDS,
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—$104.
Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ld.—$11.00.
Shanghai Land Invest. Co., (fully pd.)—Tls. 82.50.

MINING,
Punjom Mining Co., Ld.—$12.27.
Punjom Mining Co., Ld., pref. shares.—$2.00.
Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ld.—$60.50
Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 4.00.

SHIPPING,
China Mutual preference.—Tls. 72.00.
Do. ordinary, £5 paid.—Tls. 30.00.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 170.00.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.—$58.00.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—$32.00.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ld.—Tls. 52.50.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 175.00.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.—Tls. 230.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.—T. Tls. 75.00.

SUGAR,
China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—$168.00.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—$55.00.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.—Tls. 61.00.

MISCELLANEOUS,
American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 67.50.
Central Stores, Ld.—$11.00.
China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 30.00.
Hall & Holtz, Ld.—$36.00.
Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—$5.00.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 35.00.
Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Nominal.
Shanghai Gas Co.—$200.00.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.—Tls. 80.00.
Shanghai Ice, Cold Storage, & Refrigeration Co., Ld., Tls. 36.00.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.—Tls. 145.
Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 25.00.
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 57.50.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.—Tls. 26.00.
Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—$17.00.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 21st August (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—Nothing of any importance has occurred during the recent fortnight in the doings of our homeward freight market, and rates remain unchanged for Suez carriers. Rates by Pacific, however, have fluctuated considerably owing to opposition from the southern route, but owing to the delayed arrival of the *San Diego* steamer, rates by mail lines have strengthened and at present are firm at our quotations. Coastwise.—There has been little change to note, the tendency all round being if anything downwards. Coal rates from Japan have been maintained at $1.75, but at time of writing a vessel is offering at $1.70, and perhaps even less would be accepted. The expectation that the export rice is likely to be again permitted from Wuhu and Chinkiang at an early date, has kept steamers waiting about, ready to proceed up river at a moment's notice, and any scarcity of tonnage that may have been experienced for other business is probably accounted for by this. From Hankow to Swatow two vessels have been fixed at about 24 cn daresns per picul. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; New York *vid* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Baltimore *vid* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Konigsberg *vid* London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net., waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net. 35s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by sail, 20s. nominal. New York *vid* Pacific, 1¼ gold cent per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, $10 per ton strawbraid. New York *vid* Suez, 27s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 27s. 6d. for tea, all net. Boston *vid* Suez, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Philadelphia *vid* Suez, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Coast rates.—Moji to Shanghai $1.75 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai $1.75 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe 14 sen; to Nagasaki 12 sen; to Swatow 25 cents; to Amoy 25 cents; to Whampoa 27 cents; to Canton, 27 cents; Wuhu and Chinkiang to Canton, Amoy, and Swatow, nothing doing.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Stentor* (str.), *Chinese* (str.), *Menelaus* (str.), *Formosa* (str.), *Bombay* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.), *Benvenue* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Preussen* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Oceanien* (str.), *Chingwo* (str.) *Wakasa Maru* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Nurnberg* (str.), *Alesia* (str.), *Suevia* (str.), *Savoia* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*City of Peking* (str.), *America Maru* (str.), *Thyra* (str.), *Gaelic* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C., VIA SHANGHAI.—*Olympia* (str.).

For PORTLAND, O.—*Columbia* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Pisa* (str.), *Ghazee* (str.), *Governor Robie*, *Josephus*, *St. James*, *Indulgence* (str.), *Challenger*, *Ping Suey* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Changsha* (str.), *Kaenger Maru* (str.), *Australian* (str.).

For GENOA VIA BOMBAY.—*Singapore* (str.).

For BOMBAY VI SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Mike Maru* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

August— ARRIVALS.

19, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
19, Loyal, German str., from Hongay.
19, Hating, French str., from Pakhoi.
19, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
19, Taicheong, German str., from Hongay.
19, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
19, Thordis, Norw. str., from New York.
20, Bonaventure, British cr., from Nagasaki.
20, Deuteros, German str., from Saigon.
20, Kong Beng, British str., from Saigon.
20, Terrier, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
20, Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
20, Wuhu, British str., from Canton.
21, Olympia, British str., from Tacoma.
21, Progress, German str., from Touron.
21, China, German str., from Newchwang.
21, Cheangchew, British str., from Straits.
21, Indralema, British str., from Amoy.
21, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
21, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
21, Gov. Robie, Amr. ship, from New York.
22, Empress of India, Brit. str., from V'couver.
22, Hsiping, Chinese str., from Canton.
22, Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
22, Preussen, German str., from Bremen.
22, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
22, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
22, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
22, Picciola, German str., from Saigon.
22, Clara, German str., from Hoihow.
23, Chinkiang, British str., from Tientsin.
23, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
23, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
23, Bombay, British str., from Yokohama.
23, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
23, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Futami Maru, Jap. str., from Thursday Island.
24, America Maru, Jap. str., from S. Francisco.
24, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
24, Tamsui Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.
24, Loyal, German str., from Canton.
24, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
24, Oslo, Norwegian str., from Canton.
24, Hakuai Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.
24, Marie Jebsen, German str., from Bangkok.
25, Oceanien, French str., from Shanghai.
25, Benawers, British str., from Moji.
25, Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
25, Nurnberg, German str., from Hamburg.
25, Sarpedon, British str., from Liverpool.
25, Bellerophon, British str., from Java.
25, Simla, British 4-m. bark, from Cebu.
25, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.

August— DEPARTURES.

19, Parramatta, British str., for Europe.
19, Manila, British str., for London.
19, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.
19, Loyal, German str., for Canton.
19, Lennox, British str., for Portland, Or.
19, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., for Calcutta.
19, Tientsin, British str., for Hakodate.
19, Benledi, British str., for Saigon.
19, Rosetta, British str., for Yokohama.
20, Legaspi, Spanish str., for Manila.
20, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
20, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
20, Cowrie, British str., for Rangoon.
20, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
21, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
21, Maidsuru Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
21, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
21, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
21, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.
22, Hermes, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
22, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
22, Indralema, British str., for New York.
22, Hating, French str., for Hoihow.
22, Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
22, Cheangchew, British str., for Amoy.
22, China, German str., for Canton.
23, Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.
23, Hohenzollern, German str., for Yokohama.
23, Germania, German str., for Chinkiang.
23, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
23, Naukin, British str., for Kobe.
23, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
23, Haiping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
23, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
23, Haisan, German str., for Chefoo.
23, Chinkiang, British str., for Canton.
24, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
24, Kong Beng, British str., for Saigon.
24, Bombay, British str., for London.
24, Idzumi Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
24, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
24, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
24, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
25, Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
25, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
25, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
25, Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
25, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
25, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Parramatta*, from Shanghai, for Marseilles, Mr. H. Callbran; for Colombo, Capt. and Mrs. Mockler, 2 infants and European Nurse; for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Allanson and infant, Messrs. Tong and Max. Griggitz; for London, Mr. Henry Scott.

Per *Hainan*, from Chefoo, Mrs Yertrum.

Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, Amoy and Swatow, Miss Stewart, Miss Filmer, and Mr. Gibson.

Per *Terrier*, from Bangkok, Mr. Talylar.

Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. Heyburn.

Per *Kasuga Maru*, from Yokohama, Capt. J. A. Ivans, Lieut. L. T. Richardson, apt. F. Keeper, Messrs. T. Sugimura, W. E. Bailey, C. B. Bailey, Le Conteur, H. Kepagima, Mrs. R. McDonald, Mrs. da Roza and 2 infants, Master C. E. da Roza, Masters E. & L. da Roza,

Per *Empress of India*, from Vancouver, Mr. A. Findley Smith, Mrs. J. C. Melrose, Dr. J. C. Perry, and Mr. M. B. Blake; from Yokohama, Messrs. A. J. David, B. Luckan, F. R. Mourer Mrs. Rustangee, Misses Rustangee (2), Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Wright, and Mrs. Frampton; from Kobe, Messrs. A. C. Johnson and W. Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Turner, and Mrs. Huke; from Shanghai, Messrs. A. H. Myers and T. Hart-Davies, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Graham, Messrs. Jacqumin, F. D. Barretto, L. S. Lewis. J. H. Irwin, and L. L. Etzel.

Per *Kwanglee*, from Shanghai, H.E. Wu and family, H.E. Kwok and family.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Master S. C. Frewin.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Mrs. Butler, Major Jones, Dr. R. Fleming Jones, Messrs. Ed. Pugh, A. Docter, L. Osorio, R. H. Wright, Ed. Howell, J. E Pamplin, and F. P. Hernin.

Per *Preussen*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Messrs. G. Müller and Ch. Lisu; from Genoa, Messrs. E. Lutz and J. Butsch; from Colombo, Mr. R. Pirmez; from Singapore, Messrs. Yeap Kwang Seng, L. Boyak, P. Lassen, H. Köhn, B. Lundt, N. Petersen, P. Stangaard, P. Lehmann, T. A. Oyston, Koh Tiang Yean, J. Meikle, C. Carlsen, T. Rieckhoff, H. Bade, and H. Hoebel: for Japan, from Southampton, Mr. J. S. Walsham, Mrs. Cores Huntington and child; from Genoa, Dr. von Veltheim, Mr. W. Richter, and Miss Lisbeth Fergen; from Naples, Dr. H. Kimura, Mr. and Mrs. L. Boyle; from Singapore, Miss Onakasang Takatami: for Shanghai, Mrs. R. Heintze. Messrs. A. Kunz, C. Kiegeleh, E. Magnus, F. Vertel, and J. Heinze; from Antwerp, Mr. Ch. Paques; from Southampton, Sisters Margaretha and Babara, Messrs. A. T. Gowansand and J. L. Nimes; from Genoa, Messrs. M. Singlaia, R. Zabel, M. Rendenbach, J. Naylor, E. Kristsch, E. Oblendorf, H. Kirchberger, E. Wilde, H. Simon, Attaché Cheng, W. Wutzler, Mr. and Mrs. J. Koops, Messrs. E. Gilles, E. Vollack, W. Borchmann, M. Stelldinger, and G. Buzzelli; from Naples, Mr. E. Malinatta.

Per *Woosung*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. C. Lindberg.

Per *Bombay*, from Yokohama, for London, Messrs. R. Bodden and J. E. Thalman: from Shanghai, for London, Lieut. J. F. Lea; for Hongkong, Mr. J. W. S. Nelson.

Per *Suisang*, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. Byles

Per *America Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Messrs. Wm. Liebes and Benj. Braham, Mrs. Mrs. C. H. Brooke, Miss Grace Brooke, Mrs. G. A. Maynard, and Mr. Jno. Bromler.

Per *Futami Maru*, from Thursday Island, &c., for Hongkong, Major Brown, Miss Barr, Messrs. Von Aruheim, S. Willet, H. E. McGowan, Fred. Albers, and George Hubbard; for Yokohama, Messrs. Sam. S. Cohen and A. Steel, Mrs. Steel, Messrs. S. Mauville, E. S. Halfard, Andre Seigfried, T. B. Walker, K. Miyahara, and A. S. Macleod, Miss A. Macleod, Messrs. J. Muramaku, Wheeler, and Moscott.

Per *Hakuai Maru*, from Amoy, Messrs. Lalcaca and Calleir, Mr. and Mrs. Morphew and infant.

Per *Oceanien*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. Koo Chet Foo, Rev. Graves, Mr. Shiele, Rev. L. H. Roots, Mrs. Burden, Messrs. H. Piry, Ngan Sen Chor, Zeng, Zeng, Artoon, Mrs. and Miss Rosina, Mrs. Rose Hill, Messrs. Carl Hube, Wall, Hartfort, Chim Yun Fou and child, Ting York Ting, Mr. and Mrs. Lie, Mr. Gropper, Mr. Tatsue, Mrs. Weinberg, Mr. V. Weinberg, Mr. Weinberg, Miss Neal, and Miss Wilson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Guthrie*, for Manila, Mr., Mrs. and Miss McCance, Messrs. H. D. O'Callaghan, Chas. H. Channel, and H. Laguar; for Thursday Island, Mr. Eusebio Catemeba; for Brisbane, Miss Brown, Messrs. J. G. T. Buckle and F. V. Gooch, Mrs. Demmet, Messrs. Jose Vidal and S. Barnel.

Per *Bengal*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Messrs. R. W. Mansfield, J. R. Borgia, Jacquard, J. W. Morgan, C. Hardy, Dr. F. A. Hardy, and Mr. F. C. Adie; from London, Mr. R. C. Muhlback, Mr. Koot, Mrs. W. J. Andrew, and Mr. Hillier; from Brindisi, Messrs. R. E. Dearberg and P. P. Dease; from Adelaide, Mr. F. Kitching; from Bombay, Messrs. Digaria and A. E. Moses; from Singapore, Mr. E. V. Kellett.

Per *Manila*, from Hongkong, for London, Mr. Chas. H. Kent, and 32 Millitary Invalids.

Per *Parramatta*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. Baptista, Cardoro, M. Catanova, G. Mariscal, G. Mingues, M. Patter, H. Gonzales, Z. Zizarrago, Capt. and Mrs. T. Carlyle; for London, Foreman W. Pryor, Messrs. Goster, A. Stevenson, and Miss Filmer: from Yokohama, for Marseilles, Mr. A. Carrodi: from Shanghai, for Colombo, Capt. and Mrs. Mockler and two children; for Marseilles, Mr. H. Collbran; for London, Mr. H. Scott.

Per *Rosetta*, from Hongkong, for Nagasaki, Messrs. F. Lake and E. Randle.

Per *Coptic*, for Shanghai, Surgeon H. S. Burniston; for Nagasaki, Lieut.-Col. B. H. Cook, R.N.; U.S.N., Messrs. L. R. Schyjerbeck and C. Kennler; for Kobe, Mr. J. D. Danby; for Yokohama, Messrs. C. Stockwell and E. A. Katsch; for Honolulu, Mrs. Chang Shee, Mrs. Jane Shee, and Miss Chu Wan; for San Francisco, Mrs. Chang Yin and infant, Mr. Ho Lin Tai, Mrs. Tang Chung, Miss Ho Lin York, Miss Ching Hang Lin, Mr. Lee Chung, Mrs. Chan Yung, Master Lee Tso Yin, Miss Lee Ho, Miss Lee Kam, Miss Lee Ha, Mr. Lee Fung, Mrs. Ying Qui and infant, Miss Lee Hoi, Mrs. Lee Wong, Miss Lee Yat, Master Lee Shin Yin, Miss F. Katsch, Mrs. Butler, Major Jones, Mr. Ing Ging, Mr. Leung Pak Yee, Mr. Wong John, Mrs. Woo Shee, Mr. Chin Shing, Mr. C. Mark Tuck, and Mr. John Bearens; for Vancouver, Lieut.-Gen. Sanford; for London, Mr. C. H. Balfour, and Mr. R. H. Wright.

Per *Preussen*, for Shanghai, from Bremen, Mrs. A. Heintze, Messrs. A. Kunz, E. Wiegleb, E. Magnus, F. Oertel, and T. Heintze; from Antwerp, Mr. C. Paquet; from Southampton, Sisters Margaretha and Babara, and Mr. T. L. Nimes; from Genoa, Messrs. M. Singclair, R. Zabel, M. Rendebach, J. Naylas, E. Krussch, C. Ohlendorff, H. Kirchberger, E. Wilde, H. Simon, W. Kutzler, J. Hoops, Cheng, E. Gilles, E. Vollach, W. Borchmann, M. Stelldinger, and G. Buzzelli; from Naples, Mr. E. Molinatta; from Hongkong, Messrs. J. Focke, M. Stempel, Mrs. Levi, and Mrs. Josepa.

Per *Hohenzollern*, for Yokohama, from Genoa, Dr. Veltheim, and Mr. W. Richter; from Naples, Dr. H. Kimura; from Hongkong, Mrs. Sachse, and Miss Underwood: for Nagasaki, from Southampton, Messrs. J. S. Walsham and C. Huntington; from Naples, Mr. L. Boyle; from Genoa, Mr. L. Fergen; from Singapore, Miss Onakasang.

Per *Bombay*, for London, from Hongkong, Mr. Thomas Wakeman; from Yokohama, Messrs. R. Rodden, Isaac Thalman, and St. J. F. Lea.

Printed and Published by D. WARREN SMITH, at 19, Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.